

**MONTSERRAT**  
**STATUTORY RULES AND ORDERS**  
**S.R.O. 34 OF 2020**

**PUBLIC HEALTH (COVID-19 SUPPRESSION) (No.2) ORDER**

**ARRANGEMENT OF ORDER**

1.	Citation and commencement .....	2
2.	Interpretation .....	2
3.	Night-time curfew .....	4
4.	Exceptions to night-time curfew .....	4
5.	Freedom to move and operate between 5 a.m. and 8 p.m. ....	5
6.	Social distancing .....	5
7.	Mandatory closures .....	5
8.	Operations of restaurants etc .....	6
9.	Operations of barbershops etc .....	6
10.	Operations of Bus Drivers and taxi operators .....	7
11.	Religious establishments .....	7
12.	Closure of Schools .....	8
13.	Restriction on visitation .....	8
14.	Restriction on use of airports and sea ports and exceptions .....	8
15.	Remote working where reasonably practicable.....	9
16.	Prohibition on a large gathering .....	9
17.	Identification .....	10
18.	Permits .....	10
19.	Medical examinations .....	10
20.	Enforcement Powers .....	11
21.	Offences .....	12
22.	Application to Court.....	12
23.	Penalty.....	13
24.	Expiry.....	13

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Montserrat  
Public Health (COVID-19 Suppression) Order  
S.R.O. 34 of 2020

---

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**PUBLIC HEALTH (COVID-19 SUPPRESSION) (No.2) ORDER**

**THE PUBLIC HEALTH (COVID-19 SUPPRESSION) (No.2) ORDER MADE BY THE GOVERNOR ACTING ON THE ADVICE OF CABINET UNDER SECTION 10 OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACT (CAP. 14.01).**

**1. Citation and commencement**

This Order may be cited as the Public Health (COVID-19 Suppression) (No.2) Order, 2020 and comes into force 22 May, 2020 at 12 a.m.

**2. Interpretation**

In this Order—

“**bus**” means a motor vehicle which carries or is intended to carry passengers and their luggage, goods and merchandise or other load and can carry more than seven passengers excluding the driver;

“**curfew**” means the curfew imposed by paragraph 3;

“**enforcement officer**” means a member of the Montserrat Police Service, Montserrat Defence Force, any other law enforcement officer, or a prison officer;

“**essential service provider**” means a person, business, organisation or Department that offers—

- (a) air traffic (including meteorological, telecommunication, security, fire and crash services connected with airports) services;
- (b) fire, prison, defence force or police services;
- (c) medical, health, hospital, infirmary or nursing home services;
- (d) telecommunications or broadcasting services;
- (e) water, electricity or sanitation services;

Montserrat  
Public Health (COVID-19 Suppression) Order  
S.R.O. 34 of 2020

---

- (f) immigration, customs or postal services;
- (g) services connected with sittings of the Legislative Assembly and meetings of Cabinet;
- (h) services connected with the loading and unloading of ships and with the storage and delivery of goods at, or from a dock, wharf or warehouse operated in connection with the dock or wharf;
- (i) public services connected with the payment of salaries, pensions and other benefits, in government departments, agencies; statutory bodies and arms-length bodies;
- (j) services connected with the Judiciary;
- (k) services connected with oil-refining and with the loading, distribution; transportation or retail of petroleum fuel, liquefied natural gas or any renewable energy source;
- (l) airport, seaport, civil aviation or ferry services; or
- (m) services connected with essential government functions as determined by the Deputy Governor;
- (n) a service that is granted permission to offer the service under paragraph 18;

“**home**” in relation to a person, means the place where the person lives or occupies on the date this Order comes into force, and includes any driveway, garden or yard forming part of that place;

“**isolate**” means the removal to a hospital or other suitable place approved by the Chief Medical Officer of a person infected with or suspected to be infected with COVID-19, and his detention at the hospital or other suitable place, until, in the opinion of a Medical Officer he is no longer infected with COVID-19;

“**large gathering**” means a gathering of more than four persons;

“**members of the same household**” means persons (whether or not the persons are family members) who are living at the same home;

“**Minister**” means the Minister responsible for health matters;

“**Montserratian**” has the meaning assigned to it in the Montserrat Constitution Order (Cap. 1.01);

Montserrat  
Public Health (COVID-19 Suppression) Order  
S.R.O. 34 of 2020

---

“**public place**” includes a public highway, street, road, square, court, alley, land, bridle-way, footway, parade, wharf, jetty, quay, bridge, public garden or open space, and every theatre, place of public entertainment of any kind, or other place of general resort, admission to which is obtained by payment, or to which the public have access;

“**self-quarantine**” means staying at one’s place of residence away from other persons for the purpose of observing and monitoring one’s health for the development of COVID-19 symptoms; and

“**social distancing**” means maintaining a physical distance of at least six feet between all persons who are not members of the same household.

**3. Night-time curfew**

A person shall not be in a public place between 8 p.m. and 5 a.m. from the date and time this Order comes into force.

**4. Exceptions to night-time curfew**

(1) Paragraph 3 does not apply to a person—

- (a) employed to offer an essential service if that person offers the service based on a twenty-four-hour shift system;
- (b) employed to offer a service ancillary to an essential service if that person offers the service based on a twenty-four-hour shift system;
- (c) who is seeking medical attention;
- (d) who disembarks a vessel or airplane, provided that the person shall not be in a public place later than 11 p.m.;
- (e) who is at the airport or seaport for the purpose of transporting a person who has disembarked from a vessel or airplane, provided that the person shall not be in a public place later than 11 p.m.;
- (f) who goes to the airport or seaport for the purpose of departing from Montserrat, provided that the person shall not be in a public place earlier than 4 a.m.; or
- (g) who goes to the airport or seaport for the purpose of transporting a person departing from Montserrat, provided that the person shall not be in a public place earlier than 4 a.m.

Montserrat  
Public Health (COVID-19 Suppression) Order  
S.R.O. 34 of 2020

---

(2) The Minister may, in exceptional circumstances, give a person written permission to be in a public place between 8 p.m. and 5 a.m.

**5. Freedom to move and operate between 5 a.m. and 8 p.m.**

(1) Subject to paragraph 6, a person may be in a public place between 5 a.m. and 8 p.m.

(2) A business or organisation, except a business or organisation listed in paragraph 7, may operate from the date this Order comes into force.

(3) A business or organisation that is permitted to operate under this Order shall cease to operate no later than 8 p.m. daily and may resume operations no earlier than 5 a.m. the following day.

**6. Social distancing**

(1) The owner of a business or organisation that is permitted to operate under this Order shall—

(a) establish measures that ensure customers and staff maintain a physical distance of at least six feet from another person both inside and outside the business or organisation;

(b) determine the number of persons that may be permitted to enter the business or organisation at any one time by permitting one person for every thirty square feet of floor space;

(c) place distance markers six feet apart, inside the business or organisation to indicate where each customer must stand at the checkout point or in a queue;

(d) place distance markers six feet apart, outside of the business or organisation to indicate where a customer must stand while waiting to enter the business or organisation.

(2) A person shall practice social distancing at all times.

**7. Mandatory closures**

The following persons, businesses or organisations shall not operate—

(a) a bar or rum shop,

(b) a nightclub, nightspot or other similar business, or

(c) a gym, sports club or other similar entity.

Montserrat  
Public Health (COVID-19 Suppression) Order  
S.R.O. 34 of 2020

---

**8. Operations of restaurants etc**

- (1) The owner of a restaurant, cook-shop or other similar business may offer the following services only—
  - (a) collection of orders, and
  - (b) food delivery service.
- (2) If a restaurant or cook-shop or other similar business offers a food delivery service the person making the food delivery and the person receiving the food delivery shall practice social distancing during the process of the food delivery.
- (3) If a restaurant or cook-shop or other similar business offers a collection of order service the owner of the restaurant or cook-shop or other similar business shall ensure that only one customer is permitted to enter the premises to collect or pay for the order.
- (4) The owner of a restaurant or cook-shop or other similar business shall not offer dine-in or eat-in services at the restaurant or cook-shop or other similar business.
- (5) The owner of a restaurant, cook-shop or other similar business shall—
  - (a) ensure that staff and customers practice social distancing, and
  - (b) comply with any direction or guideline issued by the Minister regarding cleaning, sanitisation and other precautions.
- (6) If an owner of a restaurant, cook-shop or other similar business fails to comply with this paragraph the Minister may order the owner to close the restaurant, cook-shop or other similar business.

**9. Operations of barbershops etc**

- (1) The owner of a barbershop, beauty salon, spa or other similar business may offer services by appointments only.
- (2) For the avoidance of doubt the owner of a barbershop, beauty salon, spa or similar business shall not offer walk-in services.
- (3) The owner of a barbershop, beauty salon, spa or similar business shall not allow more than two customers in the barber shop, beauty salon, spa or similar business at the same time.
- (4) The owner of a barbershop, beauty salon, spa or similar business shall—

Montserrat  
Public Health (COVID-19 Suppression) Order  
S.R.O. 34 of 2020

---

- (a)* ensure that staff and customers practice social distancing, and
  - (b)* comply with any direction or guideline issued by the Minister regarding cleaning, sanitisation and other precautions.
- (5) If an owner of a barbershop, beauty salon, spa or similar business fails to comply with this paragraph the Minister may order the owner to close the barbershop, beauty salon, spa or similar business.

**10. Operations of Bus Drivers and taxi operators**

- (1) A bus driver or taxi operator may operate only with the prior permission of the Minister.
- (2) A bus driver shall transport no more than two passengers per row in a bus during each trip.
- (3) Despite subparagraph (2), a bus driver may transport more than two passengers per row if all the passengers on the bus are members of the same household.
- (4) A taxi operator shall transport no more than one passenger in a motorcar during each trip.
- (5) Despite subparagraph (4), a taxi operator may transport more than one passenger in a motorcar if all the passengers in the motorcar are members of the same household.
- (6) A bus driver and a taxi operator shall comply with any direction or guideline issued by the Minister regarding cleaning, sanitisation and other precautions.
- (7) If a bus driver or taxi operator fails to comply with this paragraph the Minister may order that the bus driver, taxi operator cease operating.
- (8) A person who is a passenger in a taxi or a bus shall—
  - (a)* wear a face covering in the taxi or bus, and
  - (b)* sit as far away as reasonably practicable from another passenger.

**11. Religious establishments**

- (1) Subject to subparagraph (2) a—
  - (a)* church or other religious establishment may open, and
  - (b)* funeral may be conducted.

Montserrat  
Public Health (COVID-19 Suppression) Order  
S.R.O. 34 of 2020

---

- (2) A gathering at funeral, church or religious establishment may be a gathering of no more than thirty persons.

**12. Closure of Schools**

- (1) All schools remain closed.
- (2) Despite subparagraph (1), the Minister may grant permission for the opening of a school.

**13. Restriction on visitation**

- (1) Subject to paragraph (2) a person shall not visit—
- (a) a place of quarantine or isolation,
  - (b) a patient in the hospital,
  - (c) a person in a residential care establishment or facility, except with permission of the manager or owner of the residential care establishment or facility, or
  - (d) a detainee or prisoner in a prison, except with permission from the Superintendent of Prisons.
- (2) A person may visit a relative who is in a—
- (a) prison, or
  - (b) residential care establishment or facility.

**14. Restriction on use of airports and sea ports and exceptions**

- (1) The John A. Osborne Airport shall not be used for the disembarkation of a non-Montserratian travelling by air to Montserrat from the date and time this Order comes into force.
- (2) The Little Bay Port and the Plymouth Port shall not be used for the disembarkation of a non-Montserratian travelling by sea to Montserrat from the date and time this Order comes into force.
- (3) Despite subparagraph (1) and (2), the John A. Osborne Airport, the Little Bay Port or the Plymouth Port may be used for —
- (a) the disembarkation of a Montserratian travelling by air or sea to Montserrat,



Montserrat  
Public Health (COVID-19 Suppression) Order  
S.R.O. 34 of 2020

---

- (b) the disembarkation of a person travelling by air or sea to Montserrat, for the purpose of aiding in the treatment, control and suppression of COVID-19, or for the purpose of providing support to the health services,
  - (c) the embarkation of a person travelling from Montserrat,
  - (d) the embarkation and disembarkation of a member of the crew of an aircraft or vessel (including freight, cargo or courier aircraft or vessel),
  - (e) the purpose of a medical evacuation, and
  - (f) freight, cargo, and courier services.
- (4) A person who travels to Montserrat for the purpose of aiding in the treatment, control and suppression of COVID-19, must possess a medical certificate which certifies that he is not infected with COVID-19.

**15. Remote working where reasonably practicable**

- (1) Public officers may work remotely from home where reasonably practicable, subject to the direction of the Deputy Governor.
- (2) If it is reasonably practicable, an employer shall arrange for his employees to work remotely from home using electronic means or otherwise.

**16. Prohibition on a large gathering**

- (1) A large gathering for a social, spiritual or recreational activity including, but not limited to a community event; civic event; public event; leisure event; faith-based event; sporting event; parade; concert; festival; convention; fundraiser or similar activity is prohibited.
- (2) For the avoidance of doubt a person shall not be a part of a large gathering.
- (3) The prohibition under subparagraph (2) does not apply to a large gathering—
  - (a) at a customs airport and a customs port if the purpose of the large gathering is for the embarkation or disembarkation of passengers,
  - (b) at a business that is permitted to operate under this Order, provided subparagraph (4) and paragraph 6 are complied with,
  - (c) at a business or organisation referred to in paragraph 5, provided subparagraph (4) and paragraph 6 are complied with,

Montserrat  
Public Health (COVID-19 Suppression) Order  
S.R.O. 34 of 2020

---

- (d) at a school that is granted permission to open under paragraph 12,
- (e) at a funeral,
- (f) at a church service, or
- (g) on a bus.

- (4) As far as reasonably possible a person at a gathering shall maintain a physical distance of at least six feet from another person.

**17. Identification**

A person shall carry identification at all times and show the identification to an enforcement officer on request.

**18. Permits**

- (1) The Minister may give a person, business, organisation or department written permission to—
- (a) offer an essential service, or
  - (b) open a school.
- (2) A permit issued under this Order may include conditions.
- (3) If a person, business or organisation fails to comply with a condition of a permit issued under this paragraph, the Minister may revoke permission to operate.
- (4) A permit granted under the Public Health (COVID-19 Shelter in a Place) Order, 2020 (SRO 25 of 2020) or Public Health (COVID-19 Suppression) Order, 2020 (SRO 31 of 2020) to offer an essential service or to be in a public place during a curfew period continues in force as if the permit was granted under this Order.

**19. Medical examinations**

- (1) A Montserratian arriving in Montserrat from a place outside of Montserrat—
- (a) shall answer all questions put to him by a Medical Officer which would allow the Medical Officer to assess what measures would be necessary to prevent, limit or suppress the spread of COVID-19,
  - (b) shall provide a Medical Officer with information which would allow the Medical Officer to assess what measures would be necessary to prevent, limit or suppress the spread of COVID-19,

Montserrat  
Public Health (COVID-19 Suppression) Order  
S.R.O. 34 of 2020

---

- (c)* may be subjected to a clinical examination by a Medical Officer,
  - (d)* who is considered by a Medical Officer to be high risk of being infected with COVID-19 may be isolated,
  - (e)* may be required to present himself for surveillance at a place and time as may be appointed by the Medical Officer and while undergoing surveillance may be removed to a hospital or other suitable place approved by the Chief Medical Officer, and
  - (f)* shall self-quarantine for 14 days commencing on the date of arrival in Montserrat; whether or not the person has symptoms suggestive of COVID-19.
- (2)** A person in Montserrat who, in the opinion of a Medical Officer is likely to be infected with COVID-19—
  - (a)* shall answer all questions put to him by the Medical Officer which would allow the Medical Officer to assess what measures would be necessary to prevent, limit or suppress the spread of COVID-19,
  - (b)* shall provide a Medical Officer with information which would allow the Medical Officer to assess what measures would be necessary to prevent, limit or suppress the spread of COVID-19,
  - (c)* may be subjected to a clinical examination by a Medical Officer,
  - (d)* may be required to present himself for surveillance at a place and time as may be appointed by the Medical Officer and while undergoing surveillance may be removed to a hospital or other suitable place approved by the Chief Medical Officer, and
  - (e)* shall be required to self-quarantine for 14 days or may be isolated.

**20. Enforcement Powers**

- (1)** An enforcement officer may stop a person and require the person to answer any question to enable the enforcement officer to ascertain the person's identity and whether the person is in compliance with this Order, and where the person does not satisfy the enforcement officer that he is in compliance with this Order, the enforcement officer may—
  - (a)* direct the person to return to his home immediately;
  - (b)* detain and convey the person to his home; or
  - (c)* arrest the person.

Montserrat  
Public Health (COVID-19 Suppression) Order  
S.R.O. 34 of 2020

---

- (2) The powers in subparagraph (1) may be exercised where a person is at any place other than the person's home.
- (3) An enforcement officer may use reasonable force, if necessary, in the exercise of a power in this Order.
- (4) The Chief Medical Officer, environmental health officer, health officer or enforcement officer may visit a person, a business or organisation to ensure compliance with this Order and directions or guidelines issued under paragraphs 8, 9 and 10.
- (5) The Chief Medical Officer, environmental health officer or a health officer or enforcement officer may order the immediate closure of a business for failure of the person, a business or organisation to comply with this Order and directions or guidelines issued under paragraphs 8, 9 and 10.

**21. Offences**

- (1) A person who assaults, obstructs, hinders, resists, uses threatening or abusive language or aids or incites any other persons to assault, obstruct, hinder or resist an enforcement officer in the execution of his duty under this Order commits an offence.
- (2) A person who obstructs the Chief Medical Officer or a health officer acting in the course of his duty commits an offence.
- (3) A person who is present at, or promotes, aids, or assists in the promotion of a large gathering commits an offence.
- (4) A police officer may order a large gathering to disperse, and a person who fails to obey the order commits an offence.
- (5) A person who fails to comply with this Order commits an offence.

**22. Application to Court**

- (1) If a person fails to comply with an order by the Chief Medical Officer or a health officer, the Chief Medical Officer or health officer may apply to the Magistrate's Court for directions.
- (2) If the Magistrate's Court is satisfied with the application made under subparagraph (1), the Magistrate's Court may order that the person who has failed to comply be—
  - (a) taken into custody and be placed in quarantine or isolation,

Montserrat  
Public Health (COVID-19 Suppression) Order  
S.R.O. 34 of 2020

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- (b) taken into custody and be admitted to, detained and treated at the hospital;
- (c) examined by a medical officer or health officer to ascertain whether or not the person is infected with COVID-19, or
- (d) treated for COVID-19, where on examination of the person it is found that he is infected with COVID-19.

**23. Penalty**

A person who commits an offence under this Order is liable on summary conviction to a fine of \$500 or to imprisonment for three months or to both a fine and imprisonment and in the case of a second or subsequent offence to a fine of \$1,000 or to imprisonment for a term of six months or to both such fine and imprisonment.

**24. Expiry**

This Order expires 8 June, 2020 at 5 a.m.

Made by the Governor acting on the advice of Cabinet this 18<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2020.

(Sgd.) Marjorie Smith  
**CLERK OF CABINET**

Published by exhibition by the Clerk of Cabinet at the Office of the Legislature, Farara Plaza, Brades, Montserrat, MSR1110, this 21<sup>st</sup> day of **May, 2020.**

(Sgd.) Marjorie Smith  
**CLERK OF CABINET**