

**MEMO**

**FROM:** Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Immigration and Trade  
**TO:** Heads of Missions  
**DATE:** 14<sup>th</sup> May 2020  
**REF:** 22/46

**ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA GOVERNMENT: EXPANSION OF ECONOMIC  
ACTIVITY AMID RELAXATION OF CURFEW RESTRICTIONS**

The Government of Antigua and Barbuda, in keeping with its practice of seeking the advice of local and international health officials and experts, and with continued positive reports on its efforts to control the spread of COVID-19 infections, has continued its prudent approach to reopening the economy. Accordingly, the curfew window has been extended effective 14<sup>th</sup> May 2020, to 5 AM – 9 PM daily in which the public can engage in permitted activities.

As of current date, Antigua and Barbuda has recorded twenty-five (25) confirmed cases of COVID-19 infection with three (3) COVID-related deaths, representing the second week without any new confirmed infections. Nineteen (19) persons are in quarantine facilities and nineteen (19) patients have so far recovered from the disease. There are currently two (2) persons known to be infected with COVID-19 in Antigua and Barbuda.

Activities now made permissible include:


- **Mooney transfer services,**
- **Barbers, hairdressers and nail salons** can reopen for business as of Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2020. Operators must obtain Certificates of Approval by health authorities upon satisfactory completion of inspection, and both operators and clients are required to adhere to strict rules on social distancing, wearing of face masks and related health protocols.
- Churches remain closed for regular services subject to further consultations on establishing requisite protocols. However, churches are free to conduct **rituals**, including baptisms, confirmations, weddings, funerals with the social distancing rules enforced, and no more than 25 persons in the sanctuary all wearing masks.
- Tennis and swimming will be allowed to commence on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2020, with protocols in place to include social-distancing rules.
- All other businesses and activities previously allowed under current lockdown provisions.
- Cabinet has approved the use of beaches by the public throughout the entire week between the hours of 5 AM – 7 PM, but **only** for the purposes of exercise, therapy and relaxation. Members of a household are now permitted to travel to the beach together in the same vehicle, provided masks are worn. Picnics, food and music are **NOT** allowed.

In its ongoing effort to reopen the economy, the Cabinet decided on the following:

- **All investment properties that commence their construction within this period will be allowed waiver of duties and customary taxes** on building supplies, fixtures and equipment.
- **The V.C. Bird International Airport will open to commercial traffic on June 1, 2020.** Several international carriers are expected to begin service to Antigua within days of

that date. Certain protocols will apply, both at the time of embarkation of travelers at the source markets, and upon their arrival in Antigua. All returning nationals who will go to homes continue to be compelled to spend 14 days in quarantine.

The rules governing social distancing and wearing of face masks remain firmly in place. Despite the positive reports rendered by the Ministry of Health, the COVID-19 situation remains quite fluid. In the event of increased COVID-19 spread, current provisions may be rescinded. Accordingly, citizens are urged to be vigilant in the observance of recommended health protocols and to be socially responsible amid the nation's gradual economic re-opening efforts. **ENDS**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Anthony Liverpool', is written over a horizontal dashed line.

**Anthony Liverpool**  
Permanent Secretary  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs