



**GOVERNMENT OF ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA**

**Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Immigration and Trade**

**Queen Elizabeth Highway**

**St. Johns, ANTIGUA**

**ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA GOVERNMENT EXTENSION OF 24-HOUR CURFEW**

April 15, 2020

The Government of Antigua and Barbuda, on the advice of health officials including PAHO, and to control the spread of the COVID-19 disease, has extended the current 24-Hour curfew for another week. The extension will come into effect from Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2020 at 6 AM.

As of current date, Antigua and Barbuda has recorded twenty-three (23) confirmed cases of COVID-19 infection (including two patients re-tested) with three (3) COVID-related deaths. Five (5) patients have so far recovered from the disease. Additionally, there are six (6) persons in quarantine facilities and sixty-eight (68) in self-quarantine.

**The curfew restrictions already imposed for the past two (2) weeks under the State of Emergency will continue apace.** However, considering the manageable amount of confirmed COVID-19 patients and a decline in persons seeking medical attention, Cabinet had agreed to **cautiously and incrementally expand the list of essential services allowed to operate within the prescribed 7am - 12pm time window.** Services which are now allowed to operate include:

- APUA and cable television bill payment
- vehicle parts stores (delivery only)
- hardware stores
- marine services
- Sole traders to include:

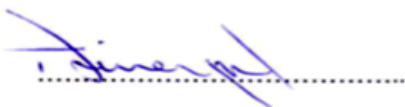
- Landscaping personnel
- Vehicle maintenance personnel
- Construction companies: **only personnel without pre-existing health conditions will be allowed to work on construction sites, and car-pooling is prohibited.**

Further, Cabinet in its desire to help our people build resilience against COVID-19 and other diseases, has relaxed the regulations to allow for running, walking, cycling and hiking during the prescribed hours of 7am-12pm. However, existing health protocols of limiting gatherings to two (2) persons, social distancing provisions of 1.5 meters between persons and replacement of face masks upon completion of the exercise activity remain firmly in place. Beaches remain closed to the public.

The Infectious Disease Treatment Centre will be commissioned early next week. This will allow for increased COVID-19 testing, as well as delivery of face masks to the general public. Cabinet also actively encourages utilizing e-commerce tools to reduce person-to-person contact, and for supermarkets to provide online delivery services.

It must be emphasized that the situation created by the COVID-19 pandemic remains very fluid. Accordingly, citizens are urged to be vigilant in the observance of recommended health protocols and to be socially responsible as the nation seeks to conduct limited business without community spread.

**ENDS**



**Anthony Liverpool**  
**Permanent Secretary**