

Regulations made by the Secretary of State, laid before Parliament under section 45R of the Public Health (Control of Disease) Act 1984 (c. 22), for approval by resolution of each House of Parliament within twenty-eight days beginning with the day on which the instrument is made, subject to extension for periods of dissolution, prorogation or adjournment for more than four days.

STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

2020 No. 327

PUBLIC HEALTH, ENGLAND

**The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Business Closure)
(England) Regulations 2020**

Made - - - - at 2.00 p.m. on 21st March 2020

Laid before Parliament 23rd March 2020

Coming into force - - at 2.00 p.m. on 21st March 2020

The Secretary of State makes the following Regulations in exercise of the powers conferred by sections 45C(1), (3)(c), (4)(d), 45F(2) and 45P of the Public Health (Control of Disease) Act 1984(a).

These Regulations are made in response to the serious and imminent threat to public health which is posed by the incidence and spread of severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) in England.

The Secretary of State considers that restrictions and requirements imposed by these Regulations are proportionate to what they seek to achieve, which is a public health response to that threat.

In accordance with section 45R of that Act the Secretary of State is of the opinion that, by reason of urgency, it is necessary to make this instrument without a draft having been laid before, and approved by a resolution of, each House of Parliament.

Citation and commencement

1.—(1) These Regulations may be cited as the Health Protection (Coronavirus, Business Closure) (England) Regulations 2020 and come into force at 2.00 p.m. on 21st March 2020.

(2) These Regulations apply in relation to England only.

Requirement to close premises and businesses during the emergency

2.—(1) A person who is responsible for carrying on a business which is listed in Part 1 of the Schedule must—

(a) 1984 c. 22. Part 2A was inserted by section 129 of the Health and Social Care Act 2008 (c.14).

- (a) during the relevant period—
 - (i) close any premises, or part of the premises, in which food or drink are sold for consumption on those premises, and
 - (ii) cease selling food or drink for consumption on its premises; or
- (b) if the business sells food or drink for consumption off the premises, cease selling food or drink for consumption on its premises during the relevant period.

(2) For the purposes of paragraph (1)(a), food or drink sold by a hotel or other accommodation as part of room service is not to be treated as being sold for consumption on its premises.

(3) For the purposes of paragraph (1)(a)(ii) and (b), an area adjacent to the premises of the business where seating is made available for customers of the business (whether or not by the business) to be treated as part of the premises of that business.

(4) A person responsible for carrying on a business which is listed in Part 2 of the Schedule must cease to carry on that business during the relevant period.

(5) If a business listed in the Schedule (“business A”) forms part of a larger business (“business B”), the person responsible for carrying on business B complies with the requirement in paragraph (1) if it closes down business A.

(6) The Secretary of State must review the need for restrictions imposed by this regulation every 28 days, with the first review being carried out before the expiry of the period of 28 days starting with the day after the day on which these Regulations are made.

(7) As soon as the Secretary of State considers that the restrictions set out in this regulation are no longer necessary to prevent, protect against, control or provide a public health response to the incidence or spread of infection in England with the coronavirus, the Secretary of State must publish a direction terminating the relevant period.

(8) A direction published under paragraph (7) may terminate the relevant period in relation to some of the businesses listed in the Schedule, or all businesses listed in the Schedule.

(9) For the purposes of this regulation—

- (a) “coronavirus” means severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2);
- (b) a “person responsible for carrying on a business” includes the owner, proprietor, and manager of that business;
- (c) the “relevant period” starts when these Regulations come into force and ends on the day specified in a direction published by the Secretary of State under paragraph (7).

Offences and penalties

3.—(1) A person who, without reasonable excuse, contravenes regulation 2 commits an offence.

(2) A person who obstructs, without reasonable excuse, any person carrying out a function under these Regulations commits an offence.

(3) An offence under these Regulations is punishable on summary conviction by a fine.

(4) If an offence under paragraph (1) committed by a body corporate is proved—

- (a) to have been committed with the consent or connivance of an officer of the body, or
- (b) to be attributable to any neglect on the part of such an officer,

the officer (as well as the body corporate) is guilty of the offence and liable to be prosecuted and proceeded against and punished accordingly.

(5) In paragraph (4), “officer”, in relation to a body corporate, means a director, manager, secretary or other similar officer of the body corporate.

Enforcement of restrictions and prosecution

4.—(1) A person, designated by the Secretary of State, may take such action as is necessary to enforce a closure or restriction imposed by regulation 2.

(2) Proceedings for an offence under regulation 3 may be brought by any person designated by the Secretary of State.

Expiry

5.—(1) These Regulations expire at the end of the period of six months beginning with the day on which they come into force.

(2) This regulation does not affect the validity of anything done pursuant to these Regulations before they expire.

2:00 p.m. on 21st March 2020

Matt Hancock
Secretary of State for Health
Department for Health and Social Care

SCHEDULE

Regulation 2

Businesses that must close

PART 1

- 1.** Restaurants, including restaurants and dining rooms in hotels or members clubs.
- 2.** Cafes, including workplace canteens, but not including—
 - (a) cafes or canteens at a hospital, care home or school;
 - (b) canteens at a prison or an establishment intended for use for naval, military or air force purposes or for the purposes of the Department of the Secretary of State responsible for defence;
 - (c) services providing food or drink to the homeless.
- 3.** Bars, including bars in hotels or members' clubs.
- 4.** Public houses.

PART 2

- 5.** Cinemas.
- 6.** Theatres.
- 7.** Nightclubs.
- 8.** Bingo halls.
- 9.** Concert halls.
- 10.** Museums and galleries.
- 11.** Casinos.
- 12.** Betting shops.
- 13.** Spas.
- 14.** Massage parlours.

15. Indoor skating rinks.

16. Indoor fitness studios, gyms, swimming pools or other indoor leisure centres.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Regulations)

These Regulations require the closure of businesses selling food or drink for consumption on the premises, and businesses listed in the Schedule, to protect against the risks to public health arising from coronavirus. The closure lasts until a direction is given by the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State is required to keep the need for these restrictions under review every 28 days.

No impact assessment has been prepared for these Regulations.