



RALPH DLG. TORRES
Governor

ARNOLD I. PALACIOS
Lieutenant Governor

COMMONWEALTH of the NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 23, 2020 GOV20-120

FROM: Governor

TO: All Department and Activity Heads

SUBJECT: Amendments to Second Amended Executive Order 2020-04 promoting social distancing

On March 19, 2020, I issued the Second Amended Executive Order 2020-04 (hereinafter “SAEO 2020-04”). SAEO 2020-04 declared a continuing State of Significant Emergency and a State of Public Health Emergency for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands due to the imminent threat of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). Under SAEO 2020-04, I invoked my authority under Article III, § 10 of the Commonwealth Constitution, the Homeland Security and Emergency Management Act of 2013, 1 CMC § 20144, and the CNMI Emergency Health Powers Act of 2003, 3 CMC §§ 2181-2195, to take all necessary measures to address the threats facing the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (“CNMI”).

Since the issuance of SAEO 2020-04, circumstances have changed necessitating amendments to the executive order. COVID-19 is spreading on Guam, our island neighbor. Further, discussions with CHCC indicate that, given the CNMI’s limited resources, prevention and containment of COVID-19 in the CNMI is an absolute necessity. This would be best aided by decreasing the amount of points of interaction and contact the population will have with each other. In this way, a person infected with COVID-19 will have fewer chances to infect other persons.

Accordingly, I further amend SAEO 2020-04 and add Directive 14:

DIRECTIVE 14: (a) As authorized under 1 CMC § 2191(d)(2) and NMIAC 140-10.3-340, and subject to the modifications and exceptions stated in section (b) of this Directive, effective March 24, 2020, all businesses that have facilities open to the general public shall only be open to the public from 6:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Outside of those hours, businesses may operate but may not be open to the general public. Businesses engaged in gaming such as the casino, video poker establishments and e-gaming facilities are specifically included within these restricted hours. Businesses are encouraged to follow the social distancing practices outlined in Directive 11 when open to the public.

(b) Modifications and Exceptions:

(1) All businesses that offer food or beverages for on premises consumption-including restaurants and bars- must suspend services and may not permit on-premises consumption. Such businesses are permitted and encouraged to serve food and beverages so that they may be consumed off-premises through means such as in-house delivery, third-party delivery, drive through, and curbside pick-up. In addition, customers may enter the premises to purchase food or beverages for take-out. However, establishments offering food or beverages for take-out, including food trucks, must ensure that they have an environment where patrons maintain adequate social distancing. Businesses located in the airports or hospital are exempt from this Directive. Hotel restaurants may continue to provide room service and take-out. Catering services may continue.

(2) All public parks including Mañagaha Island and the Grotto are hereby closed to the public.

(3) Public gatherings on beaches not covered under (b)(2) are not permitted except that individuals, couples and their children may exercise or recreate on the beach.

(4) Outside of the hours stated in section (a), laundromats, dry-cleaners and laundry service providers may conduct drop-off/pick-up service.

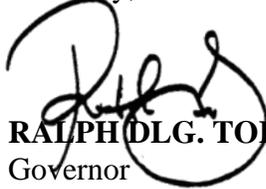
(5) CHCC, public and private health clinics, dental clinics and pharmacies are excepted from the hours stated in section (a) but may set hours that, in their judgment, best deal with the COVID-19 threat. Further, these facilities and businesses are encouraged to follow best social distancing practices.

(6) Gas stations may remain open and set their own hours but only for the dispensing of gasoline. If the station has a convenience store, then that store may not be open before or after the hours set in section (a).

(c) CHCC, in coordination with and with the assistance of the Department of Public Safety, the Department of Commerce, Alcohol Beverage & Tobacco Control Division, the Department of Fire & Emergency Medical Services, and any other necessary commonwealth agency, shall enforce this Directive. Failure to follow this Directive will subject the violator to penalties available under the law.

Through the enhanced social distancing measures, as well as the other measures authorized by SAEO 2020-04, it is hoped that the COVID-19 infection will be prevented or contained in the CNMI.

Sincerely,



RALPH DLG. TORRES
Governor