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COVID-19 HEALTH PROTECTION REGULATIONS 2021

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President Muhammadu Buhari on January 27, 2021 signed into law the Coronavirus Disease (Covid-19) Health Protection Regulations 2021 (the **“Regulations”**). This was done in a bid to forestall the increase of Covid-19 cases in Nigeria and protect the health of Nigerians.

Amongst other things, the Regulations provide for restrictions on gatherings, operations of public places, mandatory compliance with treatment protocols etc. By the tenor of the Regulations, the health and safety guidelines issued by the Presidential Task Force on Covid-19 is binding on all persons.

The Regulations provide that, every establishment occupier is now mandated to make provisions for hand hygiene facilities for persons coming into its premises during opening hours. This would include provision of a hand washing station or a hand sanitizer approved by the National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control. The Regulations also require that a physical distance of at least two meters be maintained at all times between persons.

Furthermore, the Regulations stipulate that there shall be no gathering of more than 50 persons in an enclosed space except for religious purposes, whereby the gathering shall not exceed 50% capacity of the entire space.

Any breach of the provisions of the Regulations is an offence punishable on summary conviction, by a fine or a term of six (6) months imprisonment or both. Members of the law enforcement agencies are mandated to enforce the Regulations, and a failure or refusal to enforce same shall attract disciplinary actions.
