

Consulate General Of Jamaica's Offices Close In New York, Miami Due To Coronavirus



Mark D. Milward

The Consulate General of Jamaica in New York confirmed closure of the New York office effective March 18, 2020 after a staff member tested positive for the novel coronavirus (COVID-19).

The Consulate in Miami will also close to the public effective Friday, March 20th. Both closures will lead to limited services by the Consulates and is being taken as a precautionary measure to protect and limit the spread of the virus.

The New York office will close to allow for all employees to self-quarantine for 14 days which is consistent with guidelines prescribed by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, in Atlanta. New York Consul General Alston Wilson indicated that upon developing symptoms of the virus, the individual took appropriate actions, remained at home and upon her visit with the doctor tested positive for COVID-19.

Consul General Wilson

added, "The Consulate is taking swift measures to mitigate the spread of the virus including a deep cleaning of the office space." Advice was also given to those who came into close contact with the affected individual to see their doctors for further guidance and instructions.

Both offices are requesting that those who are in need of Consulate services to limit their service needs unless it is for emergency purposes.

Individuals are also being asked to avoid calls into the Consulate offices if possible and to utilize the online services for those wishing to renew passports. The Passport, Immigration, Citizenship Agency (PICA), website at www.pica.gov.jm can handle routine passport renewal requests online.

The Consulate offices are working directly with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade (MFAFT) and Minister, Senator Hon. Kamina Johnson Smith who issued a series of measures aimed at reducing the potential for the spread of the virus.

All persons coming into Jamaica will be required to self-quarantine away from family in a hotel or a room by themselves for 14 days. Call-in numbers to the Ministry of Health & Wellness cannot be reached from the Diaspora and that contact information will be provided at landing including all compliance details.

Additional measures include the closure of bars, night clubs, cinemas and amusement sites. Public gatherings is limited to 20 persons which includes weddings, funerals, and church services.

Diasporans are being

asked by the MFAFT to consider non essential travel to Jamaica to avoid adding additional burdens to the Health system which is not as strong as that of first world countries.

The Minister indicated that all measures in place will remain in effect until further notice. Currently the Government of Jamaica has instituted travel restrictions for persons traveling to Jamaica from Iran, People Republic of China, South Korea, Italy, Singapore, Germany, Spain, France and the United Kingdom.

The advice to all is to adhere to the safety guidelines and advice being offered by the medical and health care professionals and regulatory agencies.

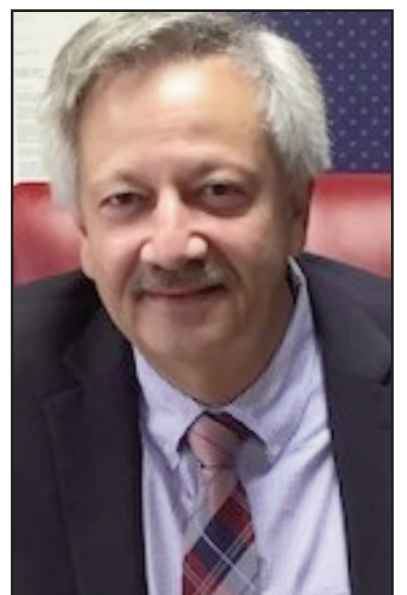
Legal Issues Of Isolation And Quarantine, Jurisdiction Of The Probate Court

In 2003 the Legislature passed a set of statutes (19a-131 through 19a-131d) which authorize the governor to declare a public health emergency, giving authority to the Commissioner of Public Health ("Commissioner") to isolate or quarantine people.

A public health emergency is defined as an occurrence or imminent threat of a communicable disease (except a sexually transmitted disease), contamination by bioterrorism, an epidemic or pandemic disease, a natural disaster, a chemical attack or accidental release or a nuclear attack posing a substantial risk of a significant number of fatalities or long term disability.

Subsequent to the passage of this law, former Governor Malloy declared a public health emergency in response to the Ebola outbreak. Governor Lamont declared a public health emergency on March 8, 2020 in response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) in Connecticut.

Until a public health emergency is declared by the Governor, local health officials have the authority to order persons into isolation and quarantine. Once the Governor declares a public health emergency, authority is vested in the Commissioner of



David Baram

Public Health to order isolation and quarantine at which time, local health officials then become agents of the Commissioner to implement the Commissioner's regulations and decisions.

A person who is infected or contaminated, can be placed in "isolation", which is physical separation and confinement in a location designated by the Commissioner.

A person who is exposed to a communicable disease or to contamination, can be quarantined as designated by the Commissioner.

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Keep Students Studying, Teachers Teaching During Coronavirus 2019 Pandemic

By David Whitaker

"What can schools do to keep students studying and teachers teaching during the coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic?"

Mon Ethos Pro answers the question, and offers a distance learning rapid response portal for \$1 per student with its Online School Portal.

Mon Ethos Pro is a brand-management consulting firm based in Massachusetts, with additional offices in the Virgin Islands, New Hampshire, and New York.

"The Online School portal is created specifically out of the need arising from children being left behind and out of school during our nation's attempt to curtail

the spread of the virus," says Mon Ethos Pro's Chief of Staff Monica Barnabae, former Director of the House of Representatives Child Care Center. "We made a system with a less than three-minute teacher and student learning curve.

A school system can deploy it in less than 24 hours to one student or one million students."

The teacher portal allows educators to add and categorize videos taken on either their cell phone or computer camera using the platforms that they already know, such as YouTube and Vimeo. A familiar "What You See Is What You Get Editor" makes it easy for teachers to type lessons, assignments and share links to documents,

sheets, and files using any school-approved system of their choice, such as Dropbox, Google Drive, Google Sheets, Docs, and others.

Students and teachers communicate using the online tools provided by the platform or they can choose to utilize a contact method that is more suitable for them, such as Skype, SMS, and email. Students are sent an email or text message daily with classes to watch or they can check their school's specific website portal.

"This is a way to get students back to learning fast," said Maxwell Robins, architect of Mon Ethos Pro. This software is only

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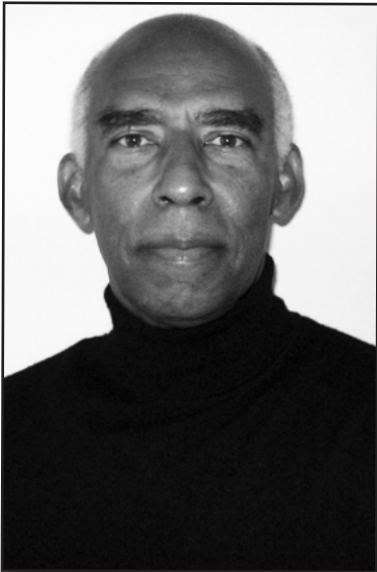
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As I dug deeper into Professor Orlando Patterson's latest publication, *The Confounding Island, Jamaica and the Post-Colonial Predicament*, with particular attention paid to the sections on why Jamaicans are the fastest runners in the world, and aspects of the life of the late Prime Minister Michael Manley (I'll comment on Patterson's thoughts on Michael Manley in a future column). I gained an understanding of the depth off Patterson's grasp of things Jamaican.

Patterson takes the reader back to 1948 Olympics where the, “excel at sprinting,” trend line began to make an appearance with



Jim Daniels

Jamaica, That Confounding Island: Part 3

Jamaica winning a gold medal and two silver medals which was repeated four years later in the Helsinki Olympics of 1952 when the island finished 13th in medals won among the nations of the world that competed. Today the fastest male and female Olympic 100 meter champions are Jamaicans.

The accomplishments of Usain Bolt, the reigning superstar of track and field athletics are further evidence of Jamaicans dominance in this field.

Describing Jamaica's exceptional performance in this area, Pattison says that in per capita terms, Jamaica far outpaces all the other nations in the number of medals won per Olympia. Its overall performance is more than 3.75 times greater than that of the second best-performing country, Russia, seven times better than the United States, and 2,429 times better than its most ancestral country—Nigeria.

All over the world sports fans and experts alike ask the same question. How does Jamaica do it? How is it possible for so small a nation to so thoroughly dominate the world in fast running? The achievement is all the more remarkable in view of the fact that running is perhaps the most widely performed and accessible of sports.

To understand Jamaica's preeminence in athletics, Patterson dismisses the many attempts made by a wide assortment of scholars and researchers that it is somehow connected to a genetic gene or a propensity towards a genetic explanation. Patterson turns to the dynamic interaction of history, culture, national institutions, public health, and socioeconomic.

Also important is location, primarily the island's proximity to the United States. Foremost in any explanation is the existence of a distinctive institutional system.

“It is now universally agreed that this single most important factor explaining the nation's athletic prowess is the institution of the annual interscholastic athletic championship properly called Champs.” Champs is a five-day meet including over 30,000 fans of all ages.

Jamaica's equivalent of the Super Bowl in the United States, it is itself embedded in the broader institutional framework of athletic sports throughout the island's educational and extra educational sports system of youth clubs and periodic special events.

But he draws attention to certain facts of history that helped to separate Jamaica's dominance in Track and Field from the dominance of another athletic past time—cricket.

Cricket is dominant in the eastern Caribbean and in particular Barbados – a reflection of the role of the island's cultural proximity to Great Britain as he presents another difference between the two islands. Patterson cites the research of Arnold Bertram, who incidentally was my classmate at Calabar high school, who points out that the Jamaican elite by the late 19th century had embraced organized sports as a means of establishing themselves as arbiters and agents of British culture and Imperial philosophy.

By the early 19th century all the leading schools in Jamaica had not only made cricket and Track and Field an integral part of their curriculum but had also imitated the British custom of interscholastic competition.

Beginning early in the 20th century role modules began to influence athletics and Jamaica as unique among nations and that its founding father, Norman Washington Manley was an outstanding student athlete. His Champs record in the 100 yards set in 1911, stood for 44 years and his 1912 hurdles record for half a century.

Patterson as a cultural sociologist points out that the success of the sport's institutional builders was made possible by the availability of something nearly unique to Jamaica: an unusually healthy and vigorous youth population eager and hungry for something meaningful to make of their lives in a poor country, (comparable to the pattern we have seen for quite some time of African-American youth excelling in the NFL and the NBA and using these as vehicles to escape personal and/or community poverty).

To explain the rise of importance of competitive athletics in Jamaica, Patterson presents what he says is a fact that has gone unnoticed. "The phenomenal success of a public health program coincided with the rise of track athletics and Norman Manley's community development program.

Initiated in the 1920s as a public health experiment and later applied elsewhere, “the program emphasized simple hygiene, education, clean water, effective fecal and mosquito control, and the strong involvement of the target populations and their local community leaders.”

Patterson concludes this is the fact that Jamaica provides one of the rear examples of a poor country with the life expectancy of an advanced society, a demographic transition that began in the 1920s and improved at one of the fastest rates on record.

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Legal Issues Of Isolation And Quarantine

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When a local health official or the Commissioner orders a person or group of people to be isolated or quarantined, that individual or group can appeal to the Probate Court for district in which the quarantine or isolation takes place. Any person aggrieved by a decision of the Probate Court can appeal to the Superior Court.

The Probate Court can order isolation or quarantine for up to 20 days and can extend that period for successive periods of not more than 20 days per extension.

The person(s) subject of the order is entitled notice and if indigent, an attorney will be appointed to represent them. A hearing must be held within 72 hours after a request is received. The Commissioner can request party status in any Probate Court hearing.

The Probate Court must find by a preponderance of the evidence that the individual is infected or contaminated, a substantial threat to public health, that isolation or quarantine is necessary to protect the public health, and that any such orders are in the least restrictive manner.

Failure to comply with an order by the local health director of isolation or quarantine can be enforced by a marshal. During a public emergency a law enforcement officer who can take a person into custody and place him/her in isolation or quarantine can enforce such orders.

The authority of Connecticut to protect the public health has been recognized as a constitutional exercise of its police power. However orders of isolation and quarantine place significant restraints on a person's liberty, so full compliance with due process is essential.

For more information on isolation or quarantine please contact your local health department or the state Department of Public Health (DPH).

As we face the public emergency created by the coronavirus, it is critical that we all comply with recommendations of our health officials, including frequent washing of hands and sanitization, social distancing, voluntary quarantine when appropriate, staying away from large public events, using good judgment in avoiding dangerous situations that could endanger you or the public, compliance with the Governor's Declarations of Emergency, and seeking medical attention as the need arises.

David Baram is Probate Judge, Tobacco Valley Probate Court, District 3 (Bloomfield, Windsor Locks, East Granby, and Suffield)

Women's League Child Development Center, A Place For Growing Minds

HARTFORD, CT - The Women's League Child Development Center of Hartford was established in 1917 by a devoted group of ministers' wives with the goal of meeting the needs of migrant and immigrant families.

Services during the early years included a residence for single moms and quality childcare for families and single women entering the workforce.

In 1927, Women's League became the first minority affiliate of the Greater Hartford Community Chest (now the United Way of the Capital Area), as testimony to the value and quality of its programs. Since 1947, the focus has exclusively been on early childhood education.

Today, as a recognized leader in the field, the organization operates a child development center with 17 classrooms serving over 200 infants, toddlers, preschoolers and school-age children.

According to Executive Director, Ms. Karen Lott, the Women's League Child Development Center has been a pioneer in Early Childhood Education for its entire century of service—being one of the first city-childcare centers to be accredited by National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC).

It is an amazing place with a great history, a dedicated

professional staff, and enduring commitment to caring and excellence. Today, the Women's League has been consistently rated as one of the ten best child development facilities in greater Hartford region.

At the Women's League the programs are housed in its unique facility built in 1994, follow a developmental appropriate curriculum that encourages active inquiry-based learning. The classrooms are driven by teachers using the interest of the children to create authentic lesson plans and units of study.

Early learning sets the foundation for future success. Teachers plan their instruction intentionally from their observations of children and the children's expressed interest.

By focusing intentionally on children developing their physical, emotional, cognitive, and language skills teachers provide children with early exposure to the skills that prepare them for success in kindergarten and beyond.

The Women's League actively engages parents and families as partners, recognizing that parents are their children's first teachers and that by working together, they can propel children to reach great success.

Infants & Toddlers

The Center cares for infants 3 to 17 months of age, and toddlers 17 months to 3 years old. Professional caregivers who are trained, knowledgeable, and skilled

in child development address the individual needs of the children.

Pre-School

In the preschool program the prek-3 and prek-4 are separated. The focus for the pre-k3 to pre-k4 programs is to enrich children's learning as they prepare to enter kindergarten. Preschoolers are encouraged to make choices, ask questions, explore, solve problems and be creative.

Teachers support children's learning across the domains (Social Emotional, Physical, Cognitive and Creative) using developmentally appropriate practice, materials, interactions and expectations. Teaching teams use the CT Early Learning Standards as a framework for planning and the CT DOTS to assess our children.

Teachers plan and differentiate to support the needs of each child. We conduct two family conferences to share children's learning with families. Partnerships with families support children's learning, ensuring that children are kindergarten ready.

School Age/The Big League

The Center provides ser-

vices during hours children are not in school. During summer vacations, with full-day, educational, recreation and social programs, including well-balanced meals and field trips that explore our community and its surroundings. In addition to improving the children's academic skills, the program builds self-esteem and friendships.

Science/Technology/Engineering/Math

For the first time in Connecticut's history, science is counted the same as math and literacy on the state's standardized testing, elevating its importance as a required core competency for young students. Given this, the Women's League takes an innovative approach to exposing our children to science education in the preschool years.

By partnering with Little Scientist a local leader in hands on science for over 25 years, the Women's League is able to bring actual scientists into the classroom to the work with preschool children on inquiry based, hands-on science projects tap into children's excitement and achievement in science, technology and achievement in science, technology

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Studying, Teaching During Coronavirus Pandemic

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offered directly to governments and school systems. One-minute video demo is available. For more information, contact

monica@monethos.com (617) 841-1063.

(David Whitaker is president of Mon Ethos Pro Consulting, LLC).

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Jamaica's Covid-19 Response

The *Miami Herald* newspaper has commended Jamaica on its rapid response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Jamaica was one of the first nations in the Caribbean to take strong action on COVID-19. The first case was identified in Jamaica on March 10, 2020, after which flights were prohibited from identified "hot zones" and limited the movement of tourists.

Jamaica also enforced quarantines for new arrivals in the country and canceled schools, in addition to other measures. The entire town of Bull Bay was placed in quarantine and locked down in response to the virus. The country then went on to shut down of its international airports to all incoming visitors for at least two weeks beginning on March 21, 2020. The country now has identified 26 cases of the virus.

Countries in the Caribbean—including Jamaica—are following the lead of Puerto Rico, which acted early on the

pandemic. Governor Wanda Vazquez of Puerto Rico closed all of the island's beaches, along with all non-essential businesses, schools and government offices, and imposed a mandatory night curfew for residents. She ultimately obtained permission from the United States federal government to close Puerto Rico's airport to commercial flights. Puerto Rico is a territory of the US and is subject to its authority. In addition to Jamaica and Puerto Rico, other regional jurisdictions have taken forceful actions to address the pandemic.

Miami Beach in Florida issued a stay-at-home order for its residents by March 26, and other cities in Dade County have followed its lead, although some towns are only "recommending" the move and not mandating it.

A COVID-19 tracker is available at: Jamaicans.com. It provides up-to-date information about the steps Jamaica has taken to confront the virus outbreak. *(Submitted by Staff Writer, Jamaicans.com).*

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