

For Official Release
PR 002-04282022
Office of the Governor
Utulei, American Samoa
April 28, 2022



“Governor Lemanu Issues Modified COVID-19 Emergency Declaration.”

“Thank you all for remaining resilient in these difficult times. I believe our current status of active cases is an indicator that vaccines, boosters, and practicing preventive measures certainly do work.”

On Thursday, April 28, 2022, Governor Lemanu P. S. Mauga issued an Emergency Declaration for the Territory modifying several COVID-19 restrictions as the number of active cases in the Territory has begun to decline. This declaration will be **effective immediately** and supersedes the Declaration dated April 12, 2022 and the amendments to that declaration.

“I want to commend the GAR, Honorable Lt. Governor Talauega, and the COVID-19 Taskforce, our local medical heroes, our federal counterparts, and the people of American Samoa,” stated Governor Lemanu. He continued, “You all have played a vital role in adjusting to our new normal with the reduction of active cases in the Territory. Thank you all for remaining resilient in these difficult times. I believe our current status of active cases is an indicator that vaccines, boosters, and practicing preventive measures certainly do work.”

“However, although our conditions have improved, relaxing our restrictions is not an indication to abandon our safety measures. Please continue to wear appropriate masks as made clear in the declaration, practice social distancing, wash your hands frequently, and most importantly, get vaccinated and boosted to protect yourselves, your families, and our children.”

Significant changes in this order include but are not limited to the following:

- Mask use requirement remains the same with the additional mandate on onboard aircraft, ships, and boats that carry passengers while traveling to American Samoa
- Outdoor public gatherings are allowed only if masking and social distancing requirements can be met.
- Indoor public gatherings are open to a maximum of 100 people indoors. Masking and social distancing requirements are required.
- Schools and colleges shall be closed for in-person classes except as approved by the GAR. Conditions for opening will vary based on the individual factors at each school; however, the minimum requirements for opening include:
 - Only students who are five years old or older may be allowed to attend in-person classes;
 - All students attending in-person classes must be fully vaccinated;

- All teachers and school personnel at the school compounds during in-person learning must be fully vaccinated; and
- Mask use is mandated at all times during in-person classes. Mask use is not required while students and teachers are eating lunch and during outdoor activities where social distancing is observed.
- Restaurants may provide take-out only. Dine-in service is prohibited, except as approved by the GAR and as provided herein:
 - Dine-in service may only be provided to customers who are five years old or older who show evidence of full vaccination;
 - All employees of the restaurant must be fully vaccinated;
 - Mask use is required at all times except during active eating;
 - Social distancing is required; and
 - Seating capacity must be limited to 50% of the maximum capacity of the restaurant.
- The following activities and businesses remain closed and prohibited:
 - (1) Bars;
 - (2) Bingo;
 - (3) Child daycare facilities;
 - (4) Gyms and fitness centers;
 - (5) Hair salons, barbershops, nail salons or services;
 - (6) Movie theaters;
- Requests for exceptions should be made by submitting a site safety plan to the Emergency Operations Center at eoc.opschief@asdhs.as.gov or (684) 699-3800 Ext: 116. (No exceptions will be granted to bars)
- Accessing government buildings
 - Must show proof of full vaccination or evidence of a negative test within the last 24 hours
 - Unvaccinated persons without proof of a negative test may enter only for the purpose of receiving emergency medical care, COVID testing, or COVID vaccination
- Funerals
 - Funerals must be coordinated through the EOC
 - Substantial restrictions remain (attendance limits, masking, and social distancing as provided in Sections 1 and 2)
 - No children under five years old are allowed to participate in funeral gatherings

To access the Declaration of Ongoing Public Health Emergency And State Of Emergency, please visit www.americansamoa.gov .

###