

For Official Release
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Office of the Governor
Utulei, American Samoa
February 22nd, 2022



“Governor Orders to Elevate Territorial COVID-19 Threat Level.”

*“The Code Red threat level will remain in effect until **March 1st, 2022**. If required, further guidance will be given regarding this elevated threat level extension beyond a week, should the GAR and COVID-19 Taskforce decide an extension is necessary.”*

“We have prepared for this day, and our commitment to keeping the people and the territory safe is our priority. I commend the GAR and the COVID-19 Task Force for their swift work and always working diligently in keeping the public’s health at the forefront.”

On Monday, February 21, 2022, Governor Lemanu had ordered to elevate the Territorial COVID-19 threat level to Code Red, effective as of midnight February 22, 2022. In accordance with the Declaration of Ongoing Public Health Emergency and State of Emergency, dated February 4th, 2022, the elevated level of threat will cause:

- All schools, daycare centers are closed; activate virtual learning.
- All ASG operations are suspended except for first responders and essential personnel.
- LBJ Hospital will take emergency cases only. All outpatient clinics are closed, pharmacy services will be limited.
- All businesses are only allowed to operate from 5 am to 4 pm.
- All air and sea travel will be suspended.
- No public gatherings: schools, daycare centers, churches, weddings, and funerals
- All persons, businesses, organizations, or agencies are required to mandate mask use inside of any building that is open to the public.
- Families are encouraged to self-quarantine and designate one family member to go to the store.
- All restaurants will be allowed to provide take-out only. Dine-in service is prohibited.
- Social distancing is highly encouraged.

Following the press conference yesterday, Governor Lemanu reminded the Public Health Officials and Cabinet members, “We have prepared for this day, and our commitment to keeping the people and the territory safe is our priority. I commend the GAR and the COVID-19 Task Force for their swift work and always working diligently in keeping the public’s health at the

forefront. Contact tracing policies have been deployed, and I am confident that our first responders are highly trained and ready to carry out their tasks.”

“We need everyone to go and get their shots. The Department of Public Health will have both testing and vaccination centers with their schedule to be released today for the rest of the week. Go and get your shots.”

He continued to address the cabinet members, “In recent months, many of you have had to carry out additional responsibilities in assisting with limiting the amount of COVID-19 cases entering our territory. And you have all worked tirelessly in support of the COVID Taskforce and the Department of Health’s critical mission. We appreciate your efforts and recognize your critical role in keeping American Samoa safe. However, it does not end here.”

“I encourage all Directors and Deputy Directors to remain flexible as we navigate through this recent emergency. We must continue to accomplish our critical mission while accommodating the health and safety of the people of American Samoa. We want to thank everyone for your willingness to do your part, your commitment to service to our territory, and all you do to keep each other and our communities safe.”

Governor Lemanu encouraged “virtual and telework to maintain essential services wherever operationally feasible.” As well as authorizing, “on-site work should absolutely be limited to critical situations, i.e., law enforcement functions critical to health and safety or performing critical on-site support functions.”

The Code Red threat level will remain in effect until **March 1, 2022**. If required, further guidance will be given regarding this elevated threat level extension beyond a week, should the GAR and COVID-19 Taskforce decide an extension is necessary.

The Declaration of Ongoing Public Health Emergency and State of Emergency can be found at www.americansamoa.gov.

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