



**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
AMERICAN SAMOA GOVERNMENT**

**FIRST AMENDMENT TO THE DECLARATION OF
ONGOING PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY AND
STATE OF EMERGENCY DATED FEBRUARY 4, 2022**

WHEREAS, the Declaration of Ongoing Public Health Emergency and State of Emergency dated February 4, 2022 is currently in effect in the Territory of American Samoa; and

WHEREAS, an increasing number of positive COVID-19 tests have been observed among the people quarantined after arriving from Hawaii; and

WHEREAS, the Centers of Disease Control has stated that the “Omicron variant spreads more easily than the original virus that causes COVID-19 and the Delta variant. CDC expects that anyone with Omicron infection can spread the virus to others, even if they are vaccinated or don’t have symptoms.”¹

WHEREAS, current vaccines are still expected to protect against severe illness, hospitalizations and deaths due to infection of the Omicron.²

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control stated that vaccination remains the best way to protect people and recommends that all eligible people received booster shots;

NOW THEREFORE, I, Lemanu P. S. Mauga, Governor of American Samoa, Amend the Declaration of Ongoing Public Health Emergency and State of Emergency dated February 4, 2022 (herein “Declaration”):

The Territory remains in Code BLUE and the Declaration is amended as follows.

Paragraph 4(A) is repealed and replaced in its entirety by the following:

- “ (A) A.S.C.A. § 13.0215(d)(3) regarding quarantine and isolation is suspended in part.
- (i) The Director of Health is authorized to quarantine a person for up to ~~fifteen~~ twenty-one days without notice if that person was or may have been

¹ Omicron Variant: What You Need to Know dated February 2, 2022 <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/variants/omicron-variant.html>

² Id.

exposed to COVID-19. Quarantine for more than ~~fifteen~~twenty-one days must be authorized by the High Court of American Samoa.

- (ii) The Director of Health is authorized to isolate a person for up to fifteen days without notice if that person is infected or reasonably believed to be infected with COVID-19. Isolation for more than fifteen days must be authorized by the High Court of American Samoa.”

This amendment to the Declaration will be effective immediately and will remain in effect until the Declaration dated February 4, 2022 expires. This amendment applies to those people who are currently in quarantine as well as those who are quarantined after the effective date of this amendment.

Dated: February 11, 2022



LEMANU P. S. MAUGA
GOVERNOR