



**LOLO M. MOLIGA**  
GOVERNOR

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**AMERICAN SAMOA GOVERNMENT**  
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**LEMANU P. MAUGA**  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

## DECLARATION OF PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, the Office of the Governor and the Department of Health are prepared to take all necessary measures to protect the health and welfare of residents of American Samoa;

WHEREAS, the measles virus is a highly infectious disease known to spread rapidly from person to person;

WHEREAS, the measles virus is known to result in dangerously high fevers, disability, and complications leading to death when contracted;

WHEREAS, confirmed cases of measles are present in the Independent State of Samoa, Kingdom of Tonga, Fiji, New Zealand and Australia;

WHEREAS, confirmed cases of measles are present in other Pacific nations;

WHEREAS, there is substantial daily travel between American Samoa and other Pacific nations, including the Independent State of Samoa;

WHEREAS, measles has not been present in the Territory of American Samoa for a substantial period of time, and is therefore a previously controlled infectious agent;

WHEREAS, there exists a known, safe, and highly effective vaccination against the measles virus;

WHEREAS, current vaccination rates in American Samoa are not sufficient to prevent the spread of the measles virus from person to person without further action;

WHEREAS, suspected cases of the measles virus are now present in the Territory;

WHEREAS, the Department of Health, in coordination with other agencies, is capable of controlling and containing the spread of the measles virus in American Samoa;

THEREFORE, I, Lolo M. Moliga, Governor of American Samoa, declare a public health emergency exists, and authorize the Department of Health to utilize all necessary powers under

the American Samoa Emergency Health Powers Act to contain and prevent the imminent risk of a measles outbreak.

Pursuant to A.S.C.A. 13.0307, I further declare that:

(1) This emergency declaration extends to the entire Territory of American Samoa, including all islands, all ports, all waters, and all areas subject to the control of the American Samoa Government; and

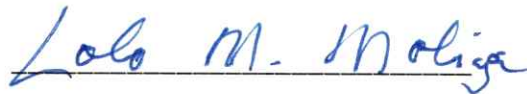
(2) The duration of this public health emergency shall be thirty (30) days, and shall be extended if necessary upon consultation with the Director of the Department of Health.

Finally, pursuant to A.S.C.A. 41.0503, I further declare that:

EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY, all visitors entering American Samoa through the Independent State of Samoa or the Kingdom of Tonga must provide proof of MMR (Measles) Immunization, or proof of MMR (Measles) Immunity as a condition of entry. Any visitor who fails to provide such proof on arrival will be denied entry and placed back on the arriving vessel to be returned to point of origin.

All residents of American Samoa traveling to affected countries will be subject to Department of Public Health screening policies to ensure compliance with measles vaccinations at all ports of entry.

Dated: November 13, 2019

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lolo M. Moliga". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

LOLO M. MOLIGA

Governor