
FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

March 26, 2020



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COVID-19 — AMERICAN SAMOA — 3/26/20

COVID-19 Response. On March 18, 2020, Governor Lolo Matalasi Moliga extended an already existing State of Emergency Declaration from its scheduled end date of March 20, 2020, to April 17, 2020. The Declaration was again extended on March 25, 2020, to April 24, 2020, in a [Second Amended Declaration of Continued Public Health Emergency and State of Emergency for COVID-19](#). The State of Emergency was originally established in response to a measles outbreak on the island in late 2019. The Declaration suspends all public gatherings, and government offices are required to stagger working hours for workers to limit exposure. Bars and nightclubs have increased restrictions on patron capacity.

The Declaration implements a three-level color-coded threat assessment system. Code Blue involves minimal social disruption with an emphasis on social distancing and hygiene, Code Yellow would be enacted with one confirmed case of COVID-19 on the island and would extend the protective measures, and Code Red would involve major protective measures to combat the severe spread of the disease.

By March 21, there were as many as eight suspected cases of COVID-19 in American Samoa. As of March 23, all entry permits onto the island are suspended and all public and private schools are closed. The island remains at the Code Blue threat level, but confirmation of cases is slowed by the fact that there are no facilities on the island capable of testing for COVID-19. Samples were originally sent to Hawaii but were returned as the patients did not meet the state's testing requirements. The tests were then sent to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, Georgia. As of March 25, the results have not yet been released.

Sources: [Government of American Samoa](#)
[NBC News](#)

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