



AMERICAN SAMOA
COMMUNITY COLLEGE
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

April 25, 2023

AMERICAN SAMOA COMMUNITY COLLEGE MEMORANDUM#015-2023

To: General Distribution

From: 

Rosevonne M. Pato, President
American Samoa Community College

Subject: **ASCC Campus Plans and Regulations for Measles Outbreak**

In alignment with the **Declaration of Public Health Emergency GL01590** issued by Governor Lemanu P. S. Mauga on August 24, 2023 the American Samoa Community College issues this *ASCC Campus Plans and Regulations*:

In-Person Class and Activities Closure

1. ASCC will be closed for all in-person class instruction beginning April 24, 2023 for three weeks (or as declared by the Governor of American Samoa).
2. No students are to be on campus for class instruction during this closure period.
3. ASCC faculty will utilize online/distance learning through the use of MOODLE, ZOOM, Google Meet or other pre-approved online methods for instruction and delivery

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(684) 699-9155 · (684) 699-6593 (fax)

of courses. ASCC faculty may work from home or on campus to conduct the online instruction.

4. All classes are to be conducted at the regularly scheduled class time using online/distance learning delivery methods.
5. All student club activities /practices/gatherings held during regular work hours are suspended during this period of declaration

Mask Use

1. ASCC personnel, enrolled students, external stakeholders, and visitors that access the College premises are highly recommended to wear a Face Mask while on campus.
2. All persons who access the College premises who have a cold, flu, fever, or other flu-like symptoms, including coughing and sneezing are strongly encouraged to wear a mask at all times while on college premises.

Pre-Approved After Hour Events /Gatherings

All pre-approved planned events (approved before 4/24/2023) held after hours (after 4pm and weekends), may proceed to be held on the following conditions:

- a. the audience and all attendees are advised to wear masks
- b. all participants (students/performers/trainers) are advised to wear masks as deemed possible
- c. the total number of people attending the event should not exceed the maximum capacity of the facility
- d. Security and ASCC personnel will be required to be present to monitor that the regulations are followed

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Outreach and Community Extension

Outreach and community extension that are regularly scheduled activities may continue with ASCC personnel taking precautionary measures to prevent the spread of measles through mask use and sanitization. Approval to conduct these regular activities should be sought with the receiving agency/department/village or church community. No outreach or extension activity should be conducted as an instructional in-person class with the high-risk population of children.

Personnel

All staff and administrators of ASCC should report to work on campus during regular work hours. If staff are unable to report to work due to child care responsibilities, the following actions are to be made:

- a. Annual leave is to be used during the period of time until child care is obtained.
- b. Leave Without Pay (LWOP) is to be applied if the employee does not have accrued leave hours
- c. A pre-approved (by administrator, Vice President, and President) adjusted work schedule is to be submitted in justification of work responsibilities conducted through online, virtual delivery of services. If the nature of the work cannot be conducted through online delivery, a. and b. are to be applied.

Equipment Supplies, and Sanitation of College Work and Facilities

Instruction is a priority at this time of closure of in-person instruction and activities. All personnel responsible for support of instruction are to work with the respective academic and student service divisions to provide the necessary resources to support online delivery of instruction by faculty and services to students (includes equipment, supplies,

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and sanitation). Approval from the respective Dean and Vice President are necessary in obtaining the needed resources.

Prevention of the spread of measles is the utmost goal during the in-person class closure period.

ASCC commits to the processes of best practices regarding the prevention of spread of the Measles and will continue to practice sanitization of facilities, issue warnings or caution regarding the need for mask use and support all requirements of the American Samoa Government in the use of equipment, facilities, vehicles, and College properties.

This memorandum is effective as of April 25, 2023

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**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
AMERICAN SAMOA GOVERNMENT**

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; and
- WHEREAS, the Director of Health has confirmed that there is an outbreak of Measles in American Samoa, with 1 laboratory confirmed case and 31 suspected/probable cases, including children under 6 months of age who are hospitalized and ineligible for MMR (Measles) vaccines; and
- WHEREAS, the measles virus is a highly infectious disease known to spread rapidly from person to person when an infected person coughs or sneezes; and
- WHEREAS, the measles virus is known to result in dangerously high fevers, disability, and serious complications, especially in young children, including pneumonia and encephalitis, potentially leading to death; and
- WHEREAS, when an unvaccinated or partially vaccinated child travels to an area where there is a measles outbreak, they are at high risk of contracting and spreading the virus; and
- WHEREAS, there exists a known, safe, and highly effective vaccination against the measles virus; and
- WHEREAS, current vaccination rates in American Samoa are not sufficient to prevent the spread of the measles virus without further action; and
- WHEREAS, the Department of Health, in coordination with other agencies, is capable of controlling and containing the spread of measles in American Samoa;

NOW THEREFORE, I, LEMANU P. S. MAUGA, Governor of American Samoa, declare a public health emergency exists under A.S.C.A. § 13.0301 et seq., the Emergency Health Powers Act, and a state of emergency under A.S.C.A. § 26.0101 et seq. for measles. The Department of Health and American Samoa Government are authorized to utilize all necessary powers to contain and prevent the imminent risk of further spread of measles. The Emergency Operations Center shall be activated to coordinate response efforts. This Emergency Declaration extends to the entire

Territory of American Samoa, including all islands, ports, waters and all areas subject to the control of the American Samoa Government.

Pursuant to A.S.C.A. § 13.0307 and § 26.0105, I further declare that:

1. Schools

All schools, public or private, and American Samoa Community College (ASCC) beginning April 24, 2023 and daycare and childcare facilities beginning April 20, 2023, will be closed for in-person classes and care for three weeks. Schools will utilize online/distance learning, and all authorities, departments and offices shall support the Department of Education and ASCC to ensure that all students have access to online/distance learning.

2. Quarantine and Isolation

(a) Any person who tests positive for measles should be issued a directive to isolate up to twenty-one days;

(b) A.S.C.A. 13.0215 regarding quarantine and isolation, is suspended in part.

(1) The Director of Health or his designee is authorized to quarantine a person for up to twenty-one days without notice if that person was or may have been exposed to measles. Quarantine may be at the individual's home or residence or at a designated quarantine facility. Quarantine for more than twenty-one days must be authorized by the High Court of American Samoa.

(2) The Director of Health or his designee is authorized to isolate a person for up to twenty-one days without notice if that person is infected or reasonably believed to be infected with measles. Isolation may be at the individual's home or residence or a designated quarantine facility. Isolation for more than twenty-one days must be authorized by the High Court of American Samoa.

(3) A copy of the Directives for Home Isolation/Home Quarantine may be provided to law enforcement officers and pulenu'u who are specifically charged with confirming compliance with those directives. In accordance with A.S.C.A. 13.0219(f), no law enforcement officer or pulenu'u who receives Directives pursuant to this paragraph may further disclose any information they receive or make or retain any copies of Directives except as the law allows. All copies of the directives shall be returned to the Department of Health when quarantine or isolation period is over.

3. Emergency Reciprocity for Medical Assistance from Outside the Territory

A.S.C.A. 31.1001, relating to licensing of medical professionals, is suspended to the extent that any person who is licensed to provide medical services by a U.S. state, U.S. territory, or the District of Columbia shall be deemed as licensed in American Samoa provided that:

- (a) The person is licensed as a physician, nurse practitioner, nurse, pharmacist, paramedic, emergency medical technician, or other medical provider in a U.S. state, U.S. territory, or the District of Columbia; and
- (b) The person's license to provide medical services has not been suspended in any state, territory or the District of Columbia; and
- (c) The person is preparing for, responding to, mitigating the effects, or recovery from measles; and
- (d) The person is a federal medical responder (uniformed service, federal government employee, or federal contractor) or is under contract with the American Samoa Medical Center Authority (LBJ Tropical Medical Center) or the Department of Health.

4. Price Gouging Prohibited

Price gouging is prohibited. This declaration established a "State of Emergency" as the term is used in Title 27, Chapter 9 of the American Samoa Code Annotated. All violations of this provision will be prosecuted vigorously to the full extent of the law. The Attorney General is authorized to request justification from any business deemed to have substantially increased its prices during this Health Emergency period.

5. Emergency Rulemaking

Departments, Agencies and Offices of the American Samoa Government may promulgate emergency rules in accordance with established law and the Administrative Procedures Act. Emergency rules will be submitted to the Governor prior to promulgation.

6. Enforcement

Any person who violates the requirements of this declaration or violates a quarantine or isolation order issued by the Director of Health or his designee may be charged with a violation of A.S.C.A. 13.0323 or ASCA 46.4703 or applicable law.

The Department of Health shall work with relevant departments and agencies to monitor the outbreak of measles in American Samoa and provide daily updates to the public on the status of the outbreak and the measures being taken to control it.

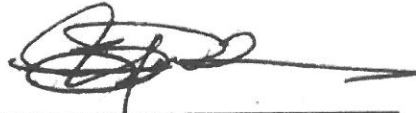
The Governor's Office may be contacted by email at legal@go.as.gov or telephone no. 684-633-4121.

The Department of Public Health may be contacted by email at tuinua@doh.as or telephone no. 684-633-5871/5872.

Declaration of Public Health Emergency
April 24, 2023

This declaration will be effective April 24, 2023 for thirty (30) days and will expire on May 24, 2023. Exclusive authority for rendering all final decisions pertaining to the implementation of all prescribed mandates of this Emergency Declaration including granting exceptions to the restrictions and conditions therein, is vested in the Governor and Lieutenant Governor of the Territory of American Samoa.

Dated: April 24, 2023



LEMANU P. S. MAUGA