



Nuku'alofa,
Kingdom of Tonga

National COVID-19 Restrictions (Tongatapu, Vava'u Islands and Ha'apai Islands) Directions

IN EXERCISE of the powers conferred by sections 37 and 39 of the Emergency Management Act [Cap 7.02] and in recognition of -

- A the Declaration made by the World Health Organization of Novel Coronavirus ("COVID-19") as a global pandemic;
- B the Declaration of a Public Health Emergency dated 17 February 2022 pursuant to section 164 and 165 of the Public Health Act [Cap 12.15] and the Declaration of COVID-19 to be a notifiable disease under the Public Health (COVID-19) Regulations 2021;
- C the Renewal of a State of Emergency dated **11 April 2022**;
- D the confirmation of the community transmission of COVID-19 in Tonga since Tuesday 1 February 2022;
- E the efforts to contain the community transmission of COVID-19 in Tonga; and
- F the confirmation from the Ministry of Health that Tonga is currently under the **Orange Colour** of the Tonga COVID-19 Traffic Light Framework 2022.

The Acting Commissioner of the Tonga Police and the Chief of Defence Staff of His Majesty's Armed Forces, as authorized officers under section 36(2) of the Emergency Management Act [Cap 7.02], hereby makes the following Directions –

- (1) These Directions shall be effective from **5.01am, Saturday 7 May 2022** to **5.00am, Saturday, 21 May 2022** and shall apply to Tongatapu, Vava'u Islands and Ha'apai Islands.
- (2) For the purposes of these Directions, unless the context requires otherwise-
"authorised officers" means any person or class of persons authorised in accordance with section 36 of the Emergency Management Act [Cap 7.02] and any person or class of persons designated under sections 177 and 178 of the Public Health Act [Cap 12.15];

"domestic public transportation" means the following –

- (a) any other motor vehicle carrying passengers for hire or reward and includes a taxi (whether three wheeled or four wheeled) passenger bus and passenger lorry;
- (b) ships as defined under section 2 of the Shipping Act [Cap 22.09]; or
- (c) aircrafts as defined under the Civil Aviation Act [Cap 23.02].

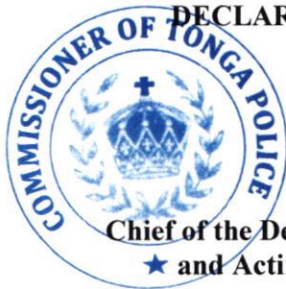
“protective clothing” means any clothing which includes personal protective equipment, handkerchief, mask, gloves, garments or equipment designed to minimise the risk of an infection; and

“social distancing” means keeping 1.5 meters distance from any other person at all times.

- (3) Night-time curfews shall apply from **11.00pm to 5:00am**.
- (4) The night-time curfew shall be enforced by the Tonga Police, His Majesty’s Armed Forces and relevant authorised officers.
- (5) All licensed businesses and business activities except for businesses with a Night Club Licence issued under section 45A of the Intoxicating Liquor Act [Cap 12.07], may operate subject to the following –
 - (a) approval of their COVID-19 response plans by the Ministry of Health; and
 - (b) observation of social distancing and wearing of protective clothing at all times.
- (6) All education institutions shall be closed except for the following –
 - (a) Tertiary Institutions;
 - (b) Technical and Vocational Education Training Institutions; and
 - (c) Forms 2, 5, 6 and 7 of the Secondary School Institutions
- (7) All passengers of domestic public transportation shall wear masks at all times whilst on the public transport and comply with Ministry of Health further directions when required.
- (8) All activities and gatherings in Tonga such as religious institutions, gym, indoor sports, tennis pickleball, golf, walking, funerals, marriages, birthdays are permitted but where relevant shall –
 - (a) comply with social distancing;
 - (b) comply with wearing protective clothing; and
 - (c) comply with the Ministry of Health requirements for sanitation and hygiene.

- (9) All kava clubs may operate subject to the approval of the Ministry of Health, except for religious kava gatherings (faikava talitali lotu) held within the church premises.
- (10) Tonga Police and His Majesty's Armed Forces and any authorised officers for the purposes of securing public safety and maintenance of public health shall have the power to enforce these Directions.
- (11) All persons shall observe and promote social distancing at all times and shall use protective clothing where possible.
- (12) All persons shall observe personal hand hygiene and shall follow all Public Health Advisories issued by the Ministry of Health in relation to COVID-19.

DECLARED at Nuku'alofa this 6th day of May 2022.



Fielakepa

Lord Fielakepa

**Chief of the Defence Staff of His Majesty's Armed Forces
★ and Acting Commissioner of the Tonga Police**

