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Media Release

3rd December 2019

Travellers advised to take heed of nation-wide vaccination campaign

The Samoan Government is not taking any chances from here on out with the measles epidemic, as new Orders of State of Emergency took effect immediately today in preparation of a nation-wide vaccination campaign, to be implemented towards the end of this week.

Samoa still welcomes visitors, who are strongly advised to take heed of the said plans, where all public services and private businesses will be on halt from 7am to 5pm on Thursday 5th and Friday 6th December 2019, to allow for extra personnel for a smooth execution of this national operation.

During the closure period, all inter-island travels between Upolu and Savaii Islands will be closed. Visitors currently in Savaii that are scheduled to depart Samoa in the closure period days of Thursday and Friday, are advised to kindly make their way to Upolu today or make further arrangements. Transport tourism services for transfer of tourists will still be open for guests in Upolu, while inter-island ferries will only resume normal travel on Saturday.

Civil aviation services, hotels and accommodation services, communication services and hospitals are exempt with a few other needed services during the closure period.

In addressing the nation in the beginning of the week, Prime Minister, Hon. Tuilaepa Lufesoliai Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi acknowledged with gratitude all the support from the international community and national stakeholders, and emphasised the importance of prevention and protection for all.

“The mass campaign over the coming days will open up the opportunity for all who have not been vaccinated up to 60 years of age to do so.” Said Tuilaepa. “I would again call on everyone’s cooperation to protect our children; seek medical care for sick children early, ensure family members especially children are vaccinated and maintain good hygiene standards in all environments.”

The Tourism Industry has been advised accordingly to be prepared and be on standby for any necessary travel or general arrangements for their respective guests.

Visitors must ensure their vaccinations are up to date. Those already in the country and uncertain of their immunization status can await mobilised vaccination units to visit their area of stay during the closure period. Travellers are further advised to see healthcare providers immediately if experiencing any symptoms of - high fever, runny nose, cough, red and watery eyes and a rash.

See all details of the latest Orders of State of Emergency on the Government Facebook page - https://www.facebook.com/samoagovt/posts/2792365964127741?_tn_=_K-R

For emergencies and enquiries, call 997 or 991 for the National Emergency Operations Center.

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