

# GOVERNMENT PRESS SECRETARIAT

## MINISTRY OF THE PRIME MINISTER & CABINET

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### COVID19 CASES & ALERT LEVEL RESPONSE ACTIVATED; 27<sup>th</sup> November 2020

(GOVT. PRESS SECRETARIAT); Swab and blood specimens from the 70 year old man who tested COVID19 positive on Thursday night, and then negative earlier this morning while under Quarantine since he arrived on 13<sup>th</sup> November (two weeks ago), are on their way to New Zealand tonight.

The elderly travelled together with his wife from Melbourne Australia via Auckland New Zealand to Samoa and have since been placed under quarantine for the last two weeks as mandated by Border Security regulations for all returning Samoans.

Referred to as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Imported suspected positive COVID-19 Case; here is the summary report prepared by the Ministry of Health and submitted to Cabinet this afternoon;

- 1 male, 70 years old, hypertensive, Samoan, transited through New Zealand from Melbourne Australia on 12 November 2020
- Arrived in New Zealand on NZ824 on 12<sup>th</sup> November and departed New Zealand on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2020 for Samoa on flight NZ990.
- Two tests conducted in Samoa – 1 negative and 1 Positive as per below dates:
- Test done in Australia on the 11<sup>th</sup> November at the 4Cyte Pathology Lab, Melbourne reported negative before departure on the 12<sup>th</sup> November 2020
- tested negative on scheduled testing on 18<sup>th</sup> November 2020, and
- Tested positive on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> November, 2020.
- Repeated swabs from both nostrils taken early this morning (Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2020 reported **negative**).
- He is currently in isolation with his wife who has consistently tested negative.

- Nasal swab and blood samples sent to NZ for reconfirmation and further evaluation.

Also heading to New Zealand tonight are blood samples from the Samoan seafarer whose results are inconclusive with one nostril testing negative and the other positive. Both potential COVID-19 cases returned home on the same flight. Meanwhile the two men remain under Control Isolation at a Special Ward at the Moto’otua National Hospital under 24 hour security by police eliminating any contact with the public except for frontline health staff.

Also under controlled isolation is the elderly man’s wife and the seafarer’s roommate from their Quarantine Accommodations since they arrived back from Europe. Both the wife and roommate have consistently tested negative since they arrived in Samoa.

As of this morning, all four have not display signs of the virus (asymptomatic).

All of the frontline personnel from health, airport, airline, quarantine, hotel, security etc. have all tested negative.

As a precautionary, all of the 274 passengers on the flight will remain in Quarantine for another 7 days starting today. Their release will depend on any developments between now and

when their additional quarantine period ends. **Also as of today, the COVID19 Alert Response is activated. (See Attachment)**

COVID-19 Alert Levels issued by Samoa Ministry of Health

LEVELS	LEVEL 0 – NORMAL/ NO CASE	LEVEL 1 – PROCEED CAREFULLY	LEVEL 2 – EXTREME CAUTION	LEVEL 3 – STAY HOME, STAY SAFE
STATUS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➢ No case</li> <li>➢ Country wide preparedness and readiness.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➢ 1-6 confirmed cases in managed isolation</li> <li>➢ Low risk.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➢ 7-9 confirmed cases in managed isolation and suspected community transmission</li> <li>➢ Moderate risk.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➢ More than 10 cases in managed isolation and/or confirmed community transmission.</li> <li>➢ High Risk.</li> </ul>
COLOUR CODE				
ACTIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➢ Travel Advisories activated.</li> <li>➢ Public awareness campaigns through sector wide coordination (led by the Ministry of Health and NEOC)</li> <li>➢ Community engagements on public health.</li> <li>➢ Review of existing national preparedness and response laws, policies and plans.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➢ State of Emergency restrictions</li> <li>➢ Encourage social and physical distancing.</li> <li>➢ Encourage basic hygiene: hand sanitizing.</li> <li>➢ Encourage wearing facial masks in public places.</li> <li>➢ Periodic testing of frontline staff.</li> <li>➢ Enforce home isolation after discharge from quarantine for additional 7 days.</li> <li>➢ Enforce border control measures.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➢ State of Emergency restrictions</li> <li>➢ Border closure with the exception of Cabinet authorised entries (aircrafts and vessels)</li> <li>➢ Restart quarantine period in all managed isolation facilities.</li> <li>➢ Mandated quarantine of front line and supportive staff</li> <li>➢ Mandated wearing of facial masks nationally.</li> <li>➢ Enforce social and physical distancing in public gatherings.</li> <li>➢ Enforce basic hygiene eg: hand sanitizing</li> <li>➢ Enforce home isolation after discharge from quarantine for additional 7 days.</li> <li>➢ Restrict inter island travels.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➢ State of Emergency restrictions.</li> <li>➢ Everyone stays home</li> <li>➢ Complete border closure.</li> <li>➢ Activation of COVID 19 Zoning depending on location of community case identified.</li> <li>➢ Complete lockdown of zone areas.</li> <li>➢ Ban all mass gatherings.</li> <li>➢ School closure.</li> <li>➢ Closure of all services (public and private) except for essential and emergency services.</li> <li>➢ Quarantine of front line and support staff.</li> <li>➢ No inter island travels</li> </ul>

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**(See Attachment)**