



Nuku'alofa,
Kingdom of Tonga

National COVID-19 Lockdown Restrictions (Tongatapu and Vava'u 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 **14 March 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 **Red 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 authorised 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 26 March 2022 to 5.00am, Saturday 2 April 2022.**
- (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].

“essential services” means services defined in **Appendix A**;

“kava clubs” means –


- (a) a group of 2 or more people consuming kava at a public location; or
- (b) a group of 2 or more people consuming kava at a private location.
- (c) Paragraph (a) and (b) does not apply to people living in the same residential household.

“liquor licences” means the following licences issued under the Intoxicating Liquor Act [Cap 12.07] –

- (a) Wholesale Licence;
- (b) Retail Bottle Store Licence;
- (c) Club Licence;
- (d) Special Events Licence.
- (e) Bar licence;
- (f) Restaurant licence; and
- (g) Night club licence;

“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 2 meters distance from any other person at all times.

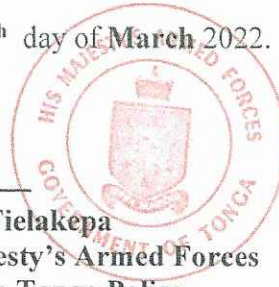
- (3) Night time curfew shall apply from 8.00pm to 8.00am. 
- (4) All persons shall be required to isolate at their homes unless for the purpose of –
 - (a) Obtaining medical supplies or seeking urgent medical assistance from Hospitals, Health Centers or Pharmacies;
 - (b) Receiving COVID-19 vaccinations;
 - (c) Attending to livestock;
 - (d) Subsistence fishing and subsistence harvesting of crops, vegetables and fruits;

- (e) Purchasing or supplying of essential consumer goods;
 - (f) Access to banking and other financial service;or
 - (g) Attending work as a member of an essential service provider as defined in **Appendix A**
- (5) All domestic public transportation shall cease to operate unless approved by the Chief Executive Officer of the Ministry of Health.
 - (6) All liquor licensed trading shall be closed.
 - (7) All licensed businesses and business activities shall be closed.
 - (8) All shops and gas stations for purchasing or supplying of essential consumer goods referred to in paragraph 4(e) may operate on Saturday 26 March 2022 from 5.00am to 8.00pm.
 - (9) All banking services referred to in paragraph 4(f) may operate on Saturday 26 March 2022 from 8.30am to 1.00pm.
 - (10) All other financial services referred to in paragraph 4(f) may operate on Saturday 26 March 2022 from 8.30am to 6.00pm.
 - (11) All public facilities, events and gatherings such as education institutions, religious institutions, kava clubs, bingo, sports clubs, gyms, sporting events and activities, celebrations, birthdays, marriages and other recreational or related gatherings shall be prohibited.
 - (12) A funeral gathering shall be restricted to a total of 10 people indoors and 20 people outdoors with an authorised officer shall be present throughout the funeral.
 - (13) 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.
 - (14) All persons shall observe and promote social distancing at all times and shall use protective clothing at all times.
 - (15) All persons are recommended to observe personal hand hygiene and shall follow all Public Health Advisories issued by the Ministry of Health in relation to COVID-19.
 - (16) All provisions of these Directions shall apply to all persons in Tongatapu and Vava'u Islands.
 - (17) All essential services and related activities listed in **Appendix A** may be exempted from the application of these Directions.

DECLARED at Nuku'alofa this 25th day of March 2022.



Fielakepa



Brigadier Rt. Hon. Lord Fielakepa
Chief of the Defence Staff of His Majesty's Armed Forces
and Acting Commissioner of the Tonga Police