



# Declaration of Ongoing Public Health Emergency and State of Emergency (3/15/22 to 4/13/22) Frequently Asked Questions

## I. MASK USE

### Q1: Who is required to wear a mask?

**A:** All persons, businesses, organizations, or agencies are required to mandate mask use inside of any building that is open to the public.

### Q2: What is the correct way to wear a mask?

**A:** All persons must wear a mask that covers both their mouth and nose.

### Q3: When and where should masks be worn?

- In or at a location where mask use is required by the person or agency who controls that location;
- At a public gathering inside a building that is open to the public;
- When occupying a bus, taxi, or other vehicle engaged in commercial transportation;

### Q4: Who is exempt from wearing a mask?

- Children under 2 years of age;
- A person who cannot safely wear a mask because of a disability as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act (42 U.S.C. § 1201 *et seq.*);
- A person for whom wearing a mask would create a risk to workplace health, safety, or job duty as determined by the relevant workplace safety guidelines or regulations;
- A person who is the sole occupant of a vehicle or office

### Q5: Should I wear a mask while exercising?

**A:** Mask is not required for outdoor exercise for individuals exercising **alone**.

### Q6: What type of mask should the public wear?

**A:** There are three types of masks acceptable under the declaration:

- Masks that meet the **N-95 or KN-95** standards are the best masks to use.
- If they are not available, you may use **surgical masks**.
- **Cloth masks** should only be used if there are no other options available.

### Q7: Can face shields be worn instead of a mask?

**A:** Face shields must be accompanied by one of the three acceptable types of face masks.

### Q8: Why should people wear masks?

**A:** Face mask wearing is a vital public health measure to minimize the risk of transmission of the COVID-19 virus.

## II. PUBLIC GATHERINGS

### Q9: Are public gatherings prohibited?

**A:** Public gatherings are prohibited except:

- **Outdoor public gatherings** limited to no more than **20** people
  - Mask use is required
  - 6ft social distancing is enforced
- **Indoor public gatherings** limited to no more than **10** people
  - Mask use is required
  - 6ft social distancing is enforced
  - Gathering must be held in a well-ventilated place

### Q10: Can you exercise in a group?

**A:** Yes. Outdoor workouts are limited to no more than 20 people. All must wear a mask and practice social distancing.

Indoor workouts are limited to no more than 10 people. All must wear a mask and practice social distancing. Indoor workouts must take place in a well-ventilated place.

### Q11: Are religious services allowed?

**A:** Church services are allowed so long as:

- Outdoor gatherings are limited to no more than 20 people while enforcing mask use and social distancing;
- Indoor gatherings are limited to no more than 10 people while enforcing mask use and social distancing. Indoor gatherings must take place in a well-ventilated place

### Q12: Can I request for an exemption?

**A:** Yes. Request for exceptions should be made by submitting a site safety plan to the Emergency Operations Center at [eoc.opschief@asdhs.as.gov](mailto:eoc.opschief@asdhs.as.gov) or **(684)699-3800 EXT: 116**.

### III. CURFEW

**Q13: How does a curfew prevent the spread of COVID-19?**

**A:** The curfew prevents COVID-19 disease transmission caused by non-essential gatherings, travel and activities outside the home.

**Q14: Why have a curfew at 9pm to 4:30am when people are moving freely throughout the day?**

**A:** Night curfew prevents and reduces COVID-19 transmission at nighttime social activities outside the home and it is less disruptive than a daytime curfew.

**Q15: What protocols have been put in place to enforce island-wide curfew especially for villages that do not have the help of the 'aumaga?**

**A:** Curfew enforcement is also provided by the Department of Public Safety (DPS).

**Q16: Will a curfew violator be fined when caught on the road after 9pm? If so, how much?**

**A:** Any individual charged for violating the curfew is fined up to one thousand dollars.

**Q17: Why are buses and taxis allowed to operate 24 hours and other businesses 5am to 8pm?**

**A:** This provides transportation for the public to go to the hospital for emergency medical care; and transportation for essential workers and first responders to go to and from the workplace. Businesses can request thru EOC, for operating hours beyond 8pm.

### IV. WORKPLACE

**Q18: Are ASG employees required to work?**

**A:** Yes:

- Departments and Agency Directors are responsible for minimal on-site staffing and shall advise public of alternative means of providing services while office staff is reduced.
- Remote work is highly encouraged.

**Q19: What COVID-19 guidelines are provided to ensure safety at the workplace?**

**A:** Employers, public and private, shall take precautions to protect their workers and customers. Precautions should include, but not limited to: encouraging testing for symptomatic employees; mandating mask use; maximize ventilation; social distancing measures such as

limiting access to their facilities to prevent overcrowding, arrange workplace so that employees are 6 feet apart, take actions to prevent customers from clustering near cash registers, limit access to indoor break areas so people eat separately. Mandate full vax ASG employees. High rec full vax customers.

**Q20: Are schools and colleges closed for in person classes and all classes conducted remotely?**

**A:** Yes.

**Q21: Are the Hope House, LBJTMC and Tafuna Correctional Facility closed for visitation?**

**A:** Yes

**Q22: Which types of businesses are closed?**

**A:** Bars; bingo; child daycare facilities; gyms and fitness centers; hair salons, barbershops, nail salons or services; movie theaters; outdoor fundraising activities; recreational facilities that are open to the public. Restaurant dine-in is prohibited, but restaurant take-out is allowed.

**Q23: Can businesses closed under GED request for an exemption?**

**A:** Yes. Request for exceptions should be made by submitting a site safety plan to the Emergency Operations Center at [eoc.opschief@asdhs.as.gov](mailto:eoc.opschief@asdhs.as.gov) or (684)699-3800 EXT: 116.

### V. QUARANTINE AND ISOLATION

**Q24: What should I expect when tested positive?**

**A:** Any person who tests positive:

- Should be issued a directive to isolate
- Register on TALOFAPASS for contact tracing and/or for daily reporting that the individual is abiding by all isolation/quarantine protocols and requirements

**Q25: How long will I be required to isolate if I test positive?**

**A:** Directive to isolate is usually for 14 days. GED does provide for flexibility to issue directive to isolate up to 21 days without prior court approval.

**Q26: Will I be fined if I leave my home for a non-medical reason before the end of my isolation period?**

**A:** Any person who violates the requirements of the Emergency Declaration, or violates an isolation directive by the Director of Health or his designee, may be charged and fined up to \$1,000.