

TONGA GOVERNMENT GAZETTE SUPPLEMENT EXTRAORDINARY

No.12

13TH, MARCH

2020

**Office of
THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH**



Ministry of Health, Vaiola Hospital, PO Box 59, Nuku'alofa
Kingdom of Tonga

**MINISTRY OF HEALTH
GOVERNMENT OF TONGA**

DECLARATION OF A PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY

Pursuant to sections 164 and 165 of the Public Health Act 2008, and having considered the spread of novel coronavirus disease ("COVID-19") worldwide and in countries proximate to Tonga, I am satisfied that a Public Health Emergency exists, and it is necessary to exercise the emergency powers under sections 181 to 198 of the Public Health Act 2008 to prepare, prevent and minimise serious adverse effects on human health in the land and sea areas of Tonga.

I HEREBY DECLARE this Public Health Emergency Order to be applied over all the land and sea areas of Tonga, commencing on the 12th of March 2020 until 12th of June 2020, unless extended under section 167 or revoked under section 169 of the Public Health Act 2008.

The Public Health Emergency Order shall be implemented in accordance with the Public Health Act 2008 and, by virtue of section 165(d), the following conditions are hereby imposed –

- (a) The general public shall cooperate, assist and adhere to all the Ministry of Health's endorsed emergency preparedness, prevention and response instructions and plans to the threat of COVID-19 and to maintain business continuity where possible;
- (b) All Emergency and Authorised Officers, identified or appointed in accordance with section 6 and 177 of the Public Health Act 2008, shall:
 - (i) Carry out their response in accordance with what is generally recommended by the Ministry of Health and World Health Organization, as amended from time to time; and
 - (ii) Exercise their duties, responsibilities and powers pursuant to sections 176 to 185 and sections 186 to 198 of the Public Health Act 2008.

DECLARED in Nuku'alofa on this 12th of **March** 2020.

Honourable Associate Professor `Amelia Latu Afuha'amango Tu'ipulotu
Minister for Health