

**Ministry of Health**

**Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update**

**18/03/2020**

*As of this morning, the Ministry of Health is investigating one patient for Coronavirus (COVID-19). This is a suspected case only.*

*The patient was admitted this morning Wednesday 18 March 2020, to the TTM Hospital Motootua after experiencing flu-like symptoms for 2 days. Patient resides in Auckland, and flew in from New Zealand on Wednesday 11 March 2020 for a family occasion.*

*This patient is currently receiving care at the TTM Hospital and is being cared for separately from other patients. The status is currently stable.*

*The patient’s samples have been sent to Australia for COVID-19 testing and results should be available in 10-20 working days (Pending Customs Clearance).*

*The Ministry is presently undertaking contact tracing of all possible contacts.*

*The public will be updated immediately as soon as we have further information.*

*We encourage all persons who have travelled or transited through countries affected by COVID-19 to monitor themselves for the development of fever, cough and shortness of breath. If you have any of these symptoms please contact the Ministry of Health COVID-19 call centre for advice.*

*Additionally, please self-isolate at home. That is to stay in a separate room from family members and use separate eating and drinking utensils.*

*The Ministry of Health is taking full precautions and preventive measures, to control the transmission of COVID-19, including preparing the health system to treat and care for our patients when the first case arrives.*

*The public also needs to do its part to protect Samoa:*

1. *Wash your hands regularly with soap and clean water or alcohol-based hand rub.*
2. *Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue and throw it into a bin and wash your hands after.*
3. *Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth*
4. *Call a healthcare provider if you feel sick for medical advice*
5. *Avoid unnecessary travel*
6. *Avoid mass gatherings and keep a distance of 1 meter from people with flu-like symptoms.*
7. *Clean frequently touched surfaces (i.e. door knobs, counters, phones).*
8. *Avoid UNNECCESSARY visits to hospital, limit family visits to hospital to 1 person, and keep children under age 19 away from hospital*

*Please check our website and facebook pages for accurate and updated facts, information and travel advisory.*

**FB: @samoagovt @publichealthsamoa**

**Coronavirus Call Centre: #21183, #21176, #21173, #22914, #22241, #24402**

**Ministry of Health Website:** [**www.health.gov.ws**](http://www.health.gov.ws)

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_End\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**