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GOVERNOR

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To: Secretary of Samoan Affairs, Attorney General, CEOs, Presidents, Directors, & Executive Directors

From: Governor of American Samoa

Subject: The Coronavirus Task Force and Coronavirus Working Group

On January 30, 2020, the International Health Regulations Emergency Committee of the World Health Organization declared the outbreak of a public health emergency of international concern. On January 31, 2020, Health and Human Services Secretary Honorable Alex M. Azar II declared a public health emergency (PHE) for the United States to aid the nation's healthcare community in responding to COVID-19.

Since the promulgation of these two declarations, we immediately took steps to prevent and preempt the entry of this virus into American Samoa. The disclosure of this pandemic in the midst of the Measles Outbreak caused the extension of the same protocols and advisories on our initiative to contain the spread of the Coronavirus. Furthermore, a group was appointed to prepare our Coronavirus Action Plan to be submitted to the Department of the Interior, CDC, the White House, DHHS, and our Delegate to Congress articulating our needs.

The speed at which the incidence of the Coronavirus is being propagated throughout the United States gives us cause to formalize the establishment of our Task Force charged with the responsibility to prepare our comprehensive Action Plan aimed to combat the entry, spread, and treatment of the Coronavirus in our territory for review and approval by the Lieutenant Governor and I with intended submission to Honorable David Bernhardt, Secretary of the Interior for subsequent transmittal to CDC, the White House, DHHS, and appropriate agencies of the Federal Government involved with combating the spread of the Coronavirus. The Coronavirus Task Force membership shall include the following heads of the following agencies of the American Samoa Government. The Director of the VA Clinic is included as a member as well to ensure arms-length collaboration and coordination of efforts ensuring inclusion of all members of community.

Paramount Chief Mauga Tasi Asuega, Secretary of Samoan Affairs
Mitzie Jessop Ta'ase, Attorney General of American Samoa
Faumuina John Faumuina, Chief Executive Officer, LBJ Tropical Medical Center
Motusa Tuileama Nua, Director, Department of Health
Dr. Ruth Matagi Tofiga, Director, Department of Education
Taimalelagi Dr. Claire Tuia Poumele, Director, Department of Port/Airport Administration
Dr. Iotamo Saleapaga, Chief Medical Officer, LBJ Tropical Medical Center
Dr. Saipale Fuimaono, Chief Medical Officer, Department of Health
Dr. Fred J. Uhrle Jr., Director, VA Medical Clinic
HTC Le'i Sonny Thompson, Commissioner of Public Safety
Samana Semo Ve'ave'a, Director, Department of Homeland Security
Sandra King Young, Executive Director, Medicaid Office – Office of the Governor
Dr. Rosevonne M. Pato, President, American Samoa Community College
Ueligitone Tonumaie'a, Treasurer/Director, Department of Treasury
Fuiavailili Keniseli Lafaele, Director, Department of Commerce
Eseneiaso J. Liu, Director, Department of Human Resources
Catherine Saelua, Director, Office of Program Planning and Budget
Faleosina Voigt, Director, Department of Public Works
Dr. Oreta Crichton, Director, Office of Procurement
Muavaefa'atasi John Suisala, Director, Department of Human & Social Services
Fa'amao Asalele, Executive Director, American Samoa Environmental Protection Agency
Evelyn Lili'o Satele, Director, Territorial Administration on Aging
Dr. Aifili John Tufa, Chief Epidemiology, Department of Health
Dr. Tuato'o Seakerise Tuato'o, Chief of Staff, LBJ Tropical Center
'Iulogologo Joseph Pereira, Executive Assistant to the Governor

The Coronavirus Task Force shall be chaired by 'Iulogologo J. Pereira with Faumuina and Nua serving as Co-Vice Chairs respectively.

The Coronavirus Working Group serving as staff to the Coronavirus Task Force is also established to perform research, drafting, documentation, and all other tasks assigned by the Coronavirus Task Force. The Coronavirus Working Group is chaired by the Chief of Staff Fiu J. Saelua with membership as follows:

Fuamatu J. Fuamatu, Western District Governor, Office Samoa Affairs
William Ledoux, Legal Counsel, Governor's Office
Dr. Sala Mata'ese Samuelu, Director, Department of Agriculture
Dr. Pa'u Roy Ausage, Acting Director, Department of Youth and Women
Dr. Ti'a Mikaele Etuale, Executive Director, Drug Coalition
Dr. Tapa'au Dan Aga, Executive Director, Political Status, Constitution, & Federal Relations
Tuimavave Tauapa'i Laupola, Director, Office of Public Information (KVZK)
HTC Malaepule L. Moliga, Director, Department of Administrative Services
Sharmain Mageo, Infection Preventionist, LBJ Tropical Medical Center
Simamao Tuato'o, Nursing Director, LBJ Tropical Medical Center
Silia P. Time, Special Programs/CIP Administrator, Governor's Office
Jerome Jerome, Administrator, Grant Management/Oversight/Accountability, Governor's Office

Recognizing that the availability of financial resources is the key to the implementation of the content of Coronavirus Action Plan, there is also established an Off-Island Coronavirus Consulting Team to ensure that our financial needs are fully articulated in Washington D.C., Federal Agencies and the Congress of the United States. This Off-Island Consulting Team is comprised of the following:

Muliufi Hannemann
National Group in D.C.
Bettilou Taylor, Medicaid and Health Consultant in D.C.
Lydia Faleafine Nomura, DOI Field Representative

LoLo M. Moliga

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cc: Honorable Lemanu Peleti Mauga, Lieutenant Governor
Honorable Gaoteote Pala'ie Tofau, President of the Senate
Honorable Savali Talavou Ale, Speaker of the House of Representatives
HTC Fiu J. Saelua, Chief of Staff
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