



Source: Ministry of Health, Tonga

Date	Items
31 Dec 2019	<i>Cluster of pneumonia in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China was reported to WHO. A novel coronavirus was eventually identified</i>
27th Jan 2020	First COVID-19 health travel advisory for Tonga issued enforcing all international inbound travellers to fill in the Health Custom Form to assess potential signs and symptoms and exposure to 2019-nCov (later changed to COVID-19)
30th Jan 2020	<i>The WHO Director General declared the novel corona virus outbreak a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (see link)</i>
	Ministry of Health border control team (Environmental Health Team) start scanning of international travellers
3 Feb 2020	Tonga National Task Force for COVID-19 joined with National Emergency Management Committee and convene its first meeting to discuss COVID-19 preparedness and response
	Second health travel advisory for Tonga issued enforcing all international inbound travellers to fill in the Health Custom Form to assess potential signs and symptoms and exposure to 2019-nCov (later changed to COVID-19)
11 Feb 2020	MOH issued Diversion Order no. 1 for international cruise ships and all international inbound watercrafts to be diverted away from Tonga until further notice on its renewal date
15 Feb 2020	Third health travel advisory for Tonga issued enforcing all international inbound travellers to fill in the Health Custom Form to assess potential signs and symptoms and exposure to COVID-19
03 March 2020	Fourth health travel advisory for Tonga issued enforcing all international inbound travellers to fill in the Health Custom Form to assess potential signs and symptoms and exposure to COVID-19
11 March 2020	<i>WHO made the assessment that COVID-19 can be characterized as pandemic (see link)</i>
12 March 2020	Tonga Minister for Health declared COVID-19 as Public Health Emergency and an Emergency Notifiable Conditions under the Public Health Act 2008. A state of Public Health Emergency declared and start to enforce health protection measures and instructions such as avoiding of mass gathering
18 March 2020	Fifth health travel advisory for Tonga issued listing 46 countries with community transmissions and stating conditions to meet before enabling travellers from these countries to enter Tonga if conditions are met
20 March 2020	Tonga declared a State of National Emergency for COVID-19 under the Emergency Management Act 2007 supported by Tonga Public Health Act 2008.
22 March 2020	Sixth travel advisory for Tonga issued diverting all international flight to Tonga for the next two weeks and raising alert level from high to very high in alignment with WHO global risk assessment.
	MOH issued diversion order no. 1 for all inbound international flight- Temporary closure of border for all international travels
23 March 2020	First National Instruction for Mass Gathering issued by the Minister of Health under the Public Health Act. It reduced certain mass gatherings to 20 indoors and 40 outdoors. Exception were allowed for workplaces, schools, markets and super markets and public transportation

26 March 2020	Tonga's first National Lockdown Notice issued to be effective on 29th March to 5th April 2020 restricting national movements including the above exception places. The only exceptions were for "essential workers/services". National curfew from 8pm to 6pm
29 March 2020	One week National Lockdown effective date
03 April 2020	Renewal of the initial National Lockdown Notice for another one week from 5th to 12th April 2020
05 April 2020	Further suspension of all international flights indefinitely
	Effective date for renewal of National Lockdown Notice
	Marine Security Committee issued its first version of Procedures for handling all foreign cargo vessels including tankers during COVID-19
08 April 2020	Special State of Emergency under Emergency Management Act to enable preparedness and response for TC Harold
09 April 2020	TC Harold entered Tongan waters around 01:00hrs, with damage to infrastructure and environment in Tongatapu and 'Eua mainly caused by king tides associated with the strong winds during the cyclone
12 April 2020	Two weeks National Lockdown ended
17 April 2020	Renewal of the State of Emergency under Emergency Management Act 2007 for another month
	National COVID-19 Restriction Notice issued for one week
24 April 2020	Renewal of National COVID-19 Restriction Notice until further notice
1 May 2020	Renewal of the most recent National COVID-19 Restriction Notice for two weeks
15 May 2020	Monthly renewal of the State of Emergency under Emergency Management Act 2007
	Review of the most recent National COVID-19 Restriction Notice including reducing curfew hrs to 7 hrs from 10:00pm to 05:00am and slowly granting permission for night clubs and bars to operate on certain days only during the week, with public health measures still in place
11 June 2020	Renewal of the State of Emergency for another month
	Update of the National COVID-19 Restriction Notice applicable for one month.
	Revision including further reducing curfew hrs to 5 hrs from 12:00am to 05:00hrs and slowly enabling business to open any day however keeping enforcing the social distancing and hand hygiene requirements
8 July 2020	National COVID-19 Restriction Notice slightly changed its name to National COVID-19 Restriction Directions with similar requirements as the most recent version
	Monthly renewal of the SOE
13 July 2020	First repatriation flight arrived in Tonga from NZ since border closure on March 23rd and undergone 2 weeks quarantine in government designated facilities (see Disaster Dashboard to access list of repatriation flights)
04 August 2020	Monthly renewal of the SOE
31 August 2020	Renewal of National COVID-19 Restriction Directions with very minor changes to the most recent version
28 Sept 2020 / 26 Oct 2020 / 23 Nov 2020 / 21 Dec 2020	Monthly renewal of the SOE

2021	
18 Jan 2021	Renewal of National COVID-19 Restriction Directions similar to the most recent version
15 Feb 2021	Monthly renewal of the SOE
15 March 2021	Monthly renewal of the SOE
	Renewal of National COVID-19 Restriction Directions similar to the most recent version
31 March 2021	Ministry of Health confirmed the Kingdom received the first batch of COVID19 Astra Zeneca vaccines at Fua'amotu
12 April 2021	Monthly renewal of the SOE
15 April 2021	Vaccination roll out to front liners commenced
19 April 2021	Vaccination to priority in the communities (over 45 years and over 18s with NCDs and persons with disabilities)
10 May 2021	Monthly renewal of the SOE
	Renewal of National COVID-19 Restriction Directions similar to the most recent version
06 June 2021	Monthly renewal of the SOE
	Renewal of National COVID-19 Restriction Directions similar to the most recent version
24 June 2021	Second vaccination roll out commenced for those who have received their first dose
05 July 2021	Monthly renewal of the SOE
	Renewal of National COVID-19 Restriction Directions similar to the most recent version
29 July 2021	Vaccination roll out commenced in Vava'u
02 August 2021	Monthly renewal of the SOE
	Renewal of National COVID-19 Restriction Directions similar to the most recent version
30 August 2021	Monthly renewal of the SOE
	Renewal of National COVID-19 Restriction Directions similar to the most recent version