



*The President*  
*Palikir, Pohnpei*  
*Federated States of Micronesia*

**DECREE ON SOCIAL DISTANCING AND OTHER PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES TO ADDRESS ONGOING COMMUNITY TRANSMISSION OF THE COVID-19 CASES IN FSM**

WHEREAS, on August 25, 2020, the President issued a decree mandating Social Distancing and an automatic lockdown in the event of a confirmed positive COVID-19 case anywhere in the FSM;

WHEREAS, when the decree was originally issued in 2020, the vaccination coverage throughout FSM was very low unlike at present across the four FSM States, as of July 23, 2022, 81.4% are fully vaccinated among eligible population of 18 years old and above, in Pohnpei 86.5%, in Chuuk 72.7%, in Yap 94.8 % and in Kosrae 91.5%; and

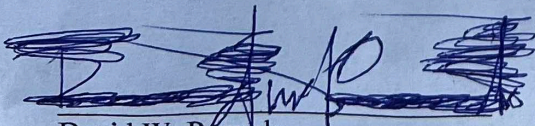
WHEREAS, a hard lockdown at the present time is unnecessary and not recommended by medical experts and the task force taking into consideration several relevant factors including the level of readiness in combatting the pandemic, availability of vaccines for 5 years of age and above, more effective medicines, test-to-treat centers, the urgent need to reopen the economy to a new normal, and the imminent reopening of international travels by August 1, 2022.

THEREFORE, I, David W. Panuelo, President of the Federated States of Micronesia, pursuant to authority vested upon me by Article X Section 9(a) of the FSM Constitution, for the sake of protecting public health and maintaining safety of our citizens and residents throughout the nation, and also reflecting in particular, the present level of readiness of the nation in combating the COVID-19 pandemic, do hereby issue this DECREE.

- a. The August 25, 2020, decree is hereby amended in the sense that there shall be **NO LOCKDOWN** in any FSM State in light of the present circumstances relating to the confirmed community transmission of the COVID-19.
- b. In lieu of a lockdown, people are advised to stay at home unless it is essential to leave the house, such as coming to work or visiting the grocery stores to buy food and supplies. Everyone must wear facemasks when in public places. Physical distancing (6 feet apart) must be observed at all times.
- c. Everyone is required to observe proper hygiene, in particular, constant handwashing, maintaining cleanliness at home and the surroundings, and avoiding unnecessary congregations and large crowds (more than 10 people) to the extent feasible.
- d. Individuals who are tested positive, sick or who have flu-like symptoms must stay at home. If symptoms persist, they are advised to go to the Testing & Treatment Center for appropriate COVID-19 testing, evaluation and corresponding treatment.

The Secretary of Justice is ordered to take measures under law to ensure the enforcement of this Decree. The Secretary of Health and Social Affairs is ordered to provide immediate guidance and advice to the public with respect to health issues and concerns.

The terms of this decree are considered incorporated into the regulation for the Healthy Border Protection Act starting on August 1, 2022. SO ORDERED.

  
David W. Panuelo  
President

Date: July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022