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## Issues & Advisories

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### CURRENT ISSUES & ADVISORIES

**Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)**

**Vaping Associated Lung Injury**

**Measles**

**Acute Flaccid Myelitis (AFM)**

**Legionella (Legionnaires' Disease)**

### PAST ISSUES & ADVISORIES

**Proposed Amendments to HAR 11-157, Examination and Immunization**

**Mumps (2017-18)**

**Zika Virus**

**Hepatitis A (2017)**

**Hepatitis A (2016)**

## Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) ACTIVE ISSUE

[Current Situation](#)

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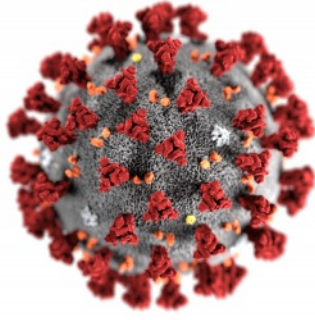
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LAST UPDATED ON MARCH 16,  
2020

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### Current Situation



An outbreak of a new coronavirus disease in 2019 (COVID-19) that began in Wuhan, China has been developing since December 2019. This outbreak now includes over 100,000 cases globally and has become widespread in a number of countries.

**Update: Hawaii is launching a statewide surveillance testing program to identify cases of community spread of the new coronavirus. For more information see: COVID-19 Sentinel Surveillance.**

The virus is primarily spread by prolonged close contact when respiratory droplets from an infected person pass to an uninfected person. The symptoms of the disease can include fever, cough or shortness of breath. There is no vaccine for the disease and no specific treatment besides supportive care. The best way to prevent the disease from spreading is to practice good hygiene (e.g., washing your hands and covering your cough) and social distancing (i.e., reducing the potential for close contact between people who are sick and people who are healthy).

If you become ill with a fever or cough, **and** have recently left an area having widespread community transmission of COVID-19 **or** have had prolonged close contact with a person confirmed to have COVID-19:

- Stay home and avoid contact with others.
- If you think you may need medical care, try to call ahead to the doctor's office or an emergency room and let them know about your symptoms and travel or contact history.
- If you need immediate medical care, call 911.

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#### COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

If you prefer to speak to someone about COVID-19 you can call Aloha United Way at 2-1-1.

Trained operators are available from 7am – 10pm to answer all COVID-19 questions.

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#### Cases in Hawaii:

There have been seven cases of COVID-19 identified in Hawaii. See "Impact in Hawaii" below for more details about these cases.

The Hawaii Department of Health (HDOH) is **urging all residents to prepare for the possibility that COVID-19 could spread in our communities (see 'What Can I Do?', below).**

#### Cases in the US:

As of 9:30 AM, March 16, 2020 there have been 3,487 total cases detected in 49 of 50 states (and 4 other US jurisdictions) through public health surveillance systems. This represents an increase of 1,858 cases over a 3-day period.

*(Note: Numbers are updated once daily from official CDC counts and may differ from media counts as new cases are identified by local jurisdictions.)*

#### Worldwide Cases:

The World Health Organization (WHO) has confirmed *widespread community transmission* of COVID-19 in a number of other countries and the situation is changing rapidly.

The Hawaii Department of Health (HDOH) is **urging all residents to avoid travel to areas with a high burden of the disease and reconsider any travel if you are elderly or have underlying medical conditions.**

If you are considering international travel, check CDC's Travelers' Health website for country-specific health information and alerts and the State Department Travel website for travel restrictions that may affect your itinerary.

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## Impact in Hawaii

On March 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>, five presumptive positive cases of COVID-19 were identified in Hawaii. Two of the cases were reported from Kauai, two from Oahu, and one from Maui. All the cases were related to travel outside of the state. This brings the total number of cases identified in Hawaii to seven.

The first presumptive positive case in Hawaii was identified on March 6, 2020. This individual was a visitor who was likely exposed while aboard the Grand Princess cruise ship. On March 8th, the second presumptive positive case of COVID-19 was identified in a resident who was hospitalized for the condition after returning to Hawaii from Washington State where the individual became ill.

There is no evidence of community spread at this time, but the Hawaii Department of Health (HDOH) is working to identify all close contacts of these cases and monitoring the health of people who may have been exposed.

Screening is being conducted at Daniel K. Inouye International Airport (HNL) by federal authorities to identify travelers from countries with restrictions that require quarantine or public health supervision.

Anyone arriving in Hawaii after having having traveled to areas with widespread sustained community transmission are being asked to stay home and monitor their health for 14 days from the time they left the affected area.

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## What can I do?

1. **Protect** yourself and your family from COVID-19 and other respiratory diseases.
2. **Prepare** for what to do if COVID-19 becomes widespread in our communities.

**Protect** – Following *everyday preventive* actions can prevent or slow down the spread of respiratory illness in the community:

- Stay home if you start to feel ill
- Wash your hands often
  - Use soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
  - If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Always wash hands with soap and water if hands are visibly dirty.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- Cover your coughs and sneezes
  - Use a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash
  - If you don't have a tissue, use your elbow
- Clean and disinfect
  - Clean frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.
- Get the flu shot
  - People with seasonal influenza will exhibit similar signs and symptoms as COVID-19 (fever and cough). If more people are protected against influenza, this will reduce confusion and the burden on our healthcare system.

**Prepare** – You can prepare *now* for a potential outbreak of COVID-19 in Hawaii:

- Stock up on all prescription medications and other basic household items like food and cleaning products so you can care for yourself and your family at home if someone becomes ill. Supplies of these items may be affected in the event of a pandemic. Anyone who becomes ill and who is a household contact of someone who is ill should stay home and avoid social contact as much as possible.
- Plan for the possibility of school closures, cancelled events and activities.

- Consider talking to your employer about your organization's strategies for preventing the spread of illness in the workplace (e.g., alternative scheduling, telecommuting, online meetings).
- Consider practicing basic social distancing measures like limiting your time spent around large groups and avoiding unnecessary close contact with people (e.g., handshakes, aloha kiss).

If you are planning on traveling, you should stay informed of the latest [travel alerts and information related to COVID-19](#) for the area you are traveling to. Additionally, [CDC recommends that all persons should defer any travel on cruise ships](#), including river cruises, worldwide because of the increased risk of COVID-19 transmission onboard ships.

Travelers from areas where there is [confirmed widespread community transmission](#) should:

- Self-monitor their health for 14 days after they left that location
  - Watch your health, and if you have a thermometer, take your temperature 2 times a day
- Remain at home and practice social distancing
  - Avoid large gatherings
  - Maintain a distance of approximately 6 feet from others as much as possible

If you become ill with a fever (100.4°F/38°C or higher) or cough, **and** have recently left an area having [widespread community transmission](#) of COVID-19 or have had prolonged close contact with a person confirmed to have COVID-19:

- Stay home and avoid contact with others except for seeking medical care.
- If you need medical care, call ahead to your doctor's office or an emergency room and let them know about your travel history. If you need emergent medical care, call 911.
- If you have difficulty accessing medical care or have questions about how to care for yourself at home, call HDOH at (808) 586-4586.

## **What HDOH is doing**

### *Vigilance and Monitoring*

- We are actively working to detect potential cases of COVID-19 as early as possible by monitoring our disease surveillance systems to identify persons that require investigation and testing and are reviewing internal protocols to ensure proper management of cases.
- We are working with our federal airport partners (U.S. Customs and Border Protections and CDC's Division of Global Migration and Quarantine) who are performing enhanced screening to identify travelers returning from China. Our disease investigation staff are actively monitoring these individuals with daily phone calls to record their temperature and confirm that they are avoiding contact with the public.
- We are in constant communication with the CDC, public health partners in other jurisdictions, and our local legislators and state officials to ensure Hawaii is aware of new developments in the COVID-19 outbreak.
- Over the past 15 years we have been developing and refining our respiratory disease surveillance systems following CDC guidelines. The system includes sentinel influenza-like illness surveillance sites, virologic surveillance, pneumonia and influenza associated mortality, and cluster/outbreak investigations. We are monitoring these systems on a daily basis looking for changes that might indicate the presence of COVID-19 in Hawaii.

### *Preparation and Prevention*

- We are working with the medical community to issue Medical Advisories and Alerts and to ensure that hospitals and providers are following infection control recommendations and are prepared to detect and treat any patient with symptoms and travel history consistent with COVID-19.
- We are communicating regularly with our local partners in the travel industry and schools to address their concerns and ensure the latest and most accurate guidance and information are being shared with their staff (see Workplace Guidance and Guidance for Schools and Universities below).

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## **Resources**

(Note: If the "updated date" on a loaded PDF does not match the date on the links below, try refreshing the PDF [by pressing Ctrl+F5, or clicking the refresh button while holding the Ctrl key])

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

- [COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\)](#) (HDOH) [PDF] – *(Updated March 13, 2020)*
  - [\(Chinese-Simplified\)](#) [\(Chinese – Traditional\)](#) [\(Japanese\)](#) [\(Ilocano\)](#) [\(Tagalog\)](#) [\(Korean\)](#)

## General Information

- [COVID-19 Sentinel Surveillance](#) (HDOH)
- [COVID-19 Flyer – What You Need to Know](#) (HDOH) [PDF] *(Updated March 5, 2020)*
- [COVID-19 Flyer – What You Should Do](#) (CDC) [PDF] *(Updated February 5, 2020)*
- [COVID-19 – If You Are Sick](#) (CDC) [PDF] *(Updated February 5, 2020)*
- [“Take 10” Pamphlet \(Emergency Kit Preparedness\)](#) (HDOH)
- [预防 2019 年新型冠状病毒 \(2019-nCoV\) 传播给家庭和社区中其他人的暂行指南](#) *(Guidance on preventing spread – in Chinese)* (CDC)
- [Water Transmission and COVID-19](#) (CDC)

## Information for Specific Groups

- [COVID-19 Information for School and University Administrators](#) (HDOH) [PDF] *(Updated March 11, 2020)*
- [COVID-19 Workplace Guidance](#) (HDOH) [PDF] *(Updated March 12, 2020)*
- [Interim Guidance for Businesses and Employers to Plan and Respond to 2019 novel coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#) (CDC)
- [Interim guidance for persons who may have 2019 novel coronavirus \(COVID-19\) to prevent spread in homes and residential communities](#) (CDC)
- [Interim Recommendations for Airlines and Airline Crew: Novel Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) in China](#) (CDC)
- [Interim Guidance for Administrators of US Childcare Programs and K-12 Schools to Plan, Prepare, and Respond to Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#) (CDC)

For more detailed and up-to-date information, visit CDC’s [website](#).

For general questions about COVID-19, you can call Aloha United Way at **211** (dial 2-1-1)

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## Information for Clinicians

For more information, see our updates for [clinicians page](#).

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