



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

February 7, 2020

Dear parents and guardians,

The Hawai'i State Department of Education (HIDOE) is working closely with the Hawai'i Department of Health (DOH) on guidance to prevent the spread of the coronavirus (2019-nCoV) to our campuses.

The following guidance from DOH has been issued for education organizations:

- There is no recommendation to exclude faculty, staff or students from school if they returned to Hawai'i from mainland China prior to Feb. 3, 2020, and they do not have symptoms of fever, cough or shortness of breath.
- Schools should expect students, faculty or staff who have traveled to mainland China to have documentation of clearance by DOH if they returned to Hawai'i on Feb. 3, 2020 or later.
- DOH will contact the school if a student, faculty or staff member is identified for home monitoring, and will provide a time period when the individual should not be at school.
- Either quarantine or home monitoring will apply to travelers returning to Hawai'i who were in mainland China in the previous 14 days.

School-related travel to mainland China for HIDOE students, faculty and staff is suspended indefinitely. Though the immediate health risk in Hawai'i is low for 2019-nCoV, we recognize the seriousness of the situation and encourage everyone to stay informed with credible sources.

Given the time of year, it is also important to emphasize that the best way to prevent the transmission of respiratory illness is by doing the following:

- Get vaccinated against the flu. With current seasonal influenza activity, similar signs and symptoms such as fever and cough could be mistaken for the coronavirus. DOH strongly recommends residents ages 6 months and older to protect themselves by receiving the seasonal flu vaccination.
- Stay home when sick.
- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing, before eating and after going to the bathroom.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.

For more information, visit <https://health.hawaii.gov/docd/advisories/novel-coronavirus-2019/>.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Christina M. Kishimoto".

Dr. Christina M. Kishimoto
Superintendent

CMK:lc

NOVEL CORONAVIRUS

What You Need to Know

Coronavirus is a type of virus that causes diseases of varying severities, ranging from the common cold to more serious respiratory disease. A novel (new) coronavirus is a new strain of coronavirus that hasn't been identified before in humans.

How is it spread?



Through coughing and sneezing



Close personal contact, such as touching or shaking hands



Touching an object or surface with the virus on it, then touching your mouth, nose, or eyes before washing your hands



Because novel coronavirus is new, we are learning more each day about the transmission patterns and incubation periods



People who traveled to or from **China within the last 14 days**, could have been exposed to the virus. Seek medical care if you traveled to China and develop a fever and cough or respiratory symptoms within 14 days of your return.

What are the symptoms?



Fever



Cough



Difficulty Breathing



Severe Illness

How can I protect myself when I travel?

Travelers going outside the US

- Avoid animals (alive or dead), animal markets, and products that come from animals (such as uncooked meat).
- Avoid contact with sick people.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.

If you traveled to China and feel sick

- Stay home and avoid contact with others
- Seek medical care right away. Before you go to a doctor's office or emergency room, call ahead and tell them about your recent travel and your symptoms.
- Don't travel while sick.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when coughing or sneezing. Throw the tissue in the trash.

If you think you may have been infected with novel coronavirus, call the DOH Reporting Line at (808) 586-4586.

This document was produced by the State of Hawaii Department of Health, adapted from the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health.



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