



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**  
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HONOLULU, HI 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:  
File:

**Communication to Staff and Providers of the Department of Health, Behavioral Health Administration  
Regarding COVID-19**

The Department of Health (DOH) continues to monitor the Novel Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) daily. Currently, there are no reported cases of COVID-19 identified in Hawaii, and risk to Hawaii remains low. The DOH is the lead agency for COVID-19 response in Hawaii, and is actively working with state, county, and federal partners as well as the medical community in Hawaii in a coordinated response.

There has been heightened media attention related to COVID-19 and the Behavioral Health Administration (BHA) has received a great many questions from its staff, providers and community partners regarding how they might respond, prepare and stay informed about this outbreak.

The BHA encourages all staff, providers and community partners to utilize the following resources to get updated information related to COVID-19. These resources provide information about how individuals and programs can stay prepared and take steps to prevent spread of the virus. We encourage everyone to take reasonable precautions and stay informed.

**We all play a key role in preparedness. Here's what you can do to plan and prepare now:**

Stay updated with the below link about COVID-19 from the DOH website. This page is updated on a regular basis. Please note the resources at the bottom of the page, including fact sheets in multiple languages.

<https://health.hawaii.gov/docd/advisories/novel-coronavirus-2019/>

**Additional resources:**

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/prevention-treatment.html>

[CDC Resources for Health Care Facilities](#)

**Practice everyday protection:**

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Sanitize and sanitize often. Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.
- Wear a mask if you are sick to prevent spreading illness to other people.

Edward Mersereau, LCSW, CSAC  
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