

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
HOSPITAL AND COMMUNITY DENTAL SERVICES BRANCH
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In reply, please refer to:
File:

October 18, 2021

Patient Notification: Staffing Shortage & Dental Care

The Hospital & Community Dental Services Branch (HCDSB) has a staffing shortage that significantly reduced our dental clinics' ability to provide dental care for our patients. The HCDSB is notifying you it cannot guarantee your dental care will be provided or completed in a timely manner. There may be delays in providing your dental care for several months or longer. The dental clinics will prioritize and treat dental emergencies without any long delays.

The HCDSB is recruiting to fill these vacant positions (dentists and dental assistants) to restore normal clinic operations and appointment availability as soon as possible. It may take an extended period of time before we fill these vacant positions.

This notification is to assist you in deciding to continue your dental care at our dental clinics under these temporary circumstances or seek dental treatment elsewhere to address your dental care. It's important to maintain your dental care because any extended delays may negatively affect your oral health. The HCDSB will do its' best to address your dental needs within our limited capacity if you decide to continue care with us. Your dentist is available to discuss your case with you.

If you decide to seek dental treatment with another provider, you can find information regarding local dentists in the telephone directory, online, or by contacting the Hawaii Dental Association or the Honolulu County Dental Society. You can contact your dental clinic for a list of local community health centers that provide dental care. If your current medical insurance plan includes dental coverage, please contact your insurance provider for a list of participating dentists.

At your request, the HCDSB will provide either you or the dentist you select, a copy of your dental record.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact your treating dentist or Dr. Andrew Tseu at (808) 832-5715.