



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. BOX 3378
HONOLULU, HI 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:
File:

January 13, 2016

MEDICAL ADVISORY: UPDATE ON DENGUE OUTBREAK;
CRITICAL NEED FOR PROVIDERS STATEWIDE TO REPORT SUSPECT CASES

Dear Healthcare Provider,

The Hawaii Department of Health (DOH) is working closely with the Hawaii County Civil Defense to combat the ongoing dengue fever outbreak on Big Island. Dengue can be transmitted through the day-biting mosquitoes, *Aedes aegypti* and *albopictus*, the latter of which can be found throughout the state. As of January 12, 2016, DOH has identified 213 locally-acquired (autochthonous), laboratory-confirmed dengue fever cases on the island of Hawaii. Dates of onset have ranged from September 11, 2015 through January 1, 2016. Outbreak investigation and control activities are ongoing with disease activity limited to the Big Island. However, given the ease and frequency of travel, we must remain vigilant for any new dengue introductions whether related to the outbreak or from other countries. During the period of this outbreak, DOH has confirmed 6 internationally imported dengue cases among returning residents to each of the counties in our state.

DOH would like to remind all providers in the state to continue to watch for suspect cases of dengue fever and to **report all such patients to DOH at the time dengue fever is first suspected**. Delay in reporting directly impedes identifying and abating potential areas of mosquito transmission and places the public's health at risk. **Reporting by the healthcare provider is critical**. Laboratory reporting lacks key details regarding the patient's illness as well as valid patient contact and address information, which are crucial to assure a swift public health response.

As a reminder, please report any patients without an alternative underlying etiology and presenting on or after September 1, 2015 with:

- Acute onset fever AND
- At least TWO (2) of the following:
 - Headache/retro-orbital pain
 - Nausea
 - Myalgias and/or arthralgias
 - Generalized maculopapular rashAND
- Travel to or residence on the Big Island in the 7 days before fever onset

Promoting Lifelong Health & Wellness

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For further information regarding the outbreak as well as resources to help inform your patients, please refer to our dengue response website: <http://health.hawaii.gov/docd/dengue-outbreak-2015/>. For clinician-specific information, please refer to <http://health.hawaii.gov/docd/updates-and-resources-for-clinicians/> and <http://www.cdc.gov/dengue/clinicalLab/index.html>.

Please note dengue fever is an URGENT CATEGORY NOTIFIABLE CONDITION and must be reported by phone:

Oahu (Disease Investigation Branch)	(808) 586-4586
Maui District Health Office	(808) 984-8213
Kauai District Health Office.....	(808) 241-3563
Big Island District Health Office (Hilo)	(808) 933-0912
Big Island District Health Office (Kona).....	(808) 322-4877
After hours on Oahu	(808) 566-5049
After hours on neighbor islands.....	(800) 360-2575 (toll free)

Thank you for your assistance in our investigation and in protecting the health of our residents and visitors.

Sincerely,



Sarah Y. Park, M.D., F.A.A.P.
State Epidemiologist
Hawaii Department of Health

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