



## Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

### Information for School and University Administrators

*Last reviewed: March 11, 2020*

Persons who have had close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19 infection or a person under investigation (PUI) for COVID-19 should **NOT** be allowed to attend school. If a case or PUI is identified and the Department of Health (DOH) determines persons at a school/university may have been exposed, DOH will work closely with the affected school to minimize spread of the illness.

The following guidance is for persons who return to Hawaii from **mainland China** (excludes Hong Kong, Macau, and Taiwan) and/or **Iran**.

- All international travelers are currently being screened by federal partners at the Daniel K. Inouye International Airport and will be either quarantined<sup>1</sup> or on self-monitoring under public health supervision if they were in mainland China and/or Iran during the previous 14 days. At this time, public health will perform active monitoring of both groups, which includes recommendations to remain at home for the self-monitoring group.
  - HDOH will contact the school if a student is identified for active monitoring and will provide the time period when the student should not attend school.
  - Faculty and staff members on active monitoring should inform their employer.
- Siblings and other household contacts of returned **asymptomatic** travelers from mainland China and/or Iran are not subject to monitoring and may attend school or work. If household contacts of asymptomatic travelers have respiratory symptoms or fever, usual school exclusion policies should apply.
- If schools receive inquiries regarding eligibility to return to school or work for students who have returned from China and/or Iran and have not yet completed 14 days of home monitoring, and have not yet been notified by HDOH of an exclusion for such persons, **please contact HDOH for additional guidance (see below).**

Students/staff who are returning from a country with a Level 3 Travel Health Notice<sup>2</sup> (**countries with widespread sustained [ongoing] transmission of COVID-19**):

- Only persons who have been in mainland China and/or Iran during the previous 14 days will be actively monitored by DOH.
- Travelers from other countries with a Level 3 Travel Health Notice will **not** be screened and identified at airports (will only be provided with information regarding the recommendation to stay home and self-monitor for 14 days).
  - These travelers will be expected to stay home and avoid contact with others (e.g., do not go to work or school) for a period of 14 days from the time they left the area with widespread, ongoing community spread

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<sup>1</sup> Restricted movement at home or at a designated facility with active public health monitoring

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html>

- Persons who have been in a country with widespread ongoing transmission of COVID-19 will need to inform schools/universities that they will remain at home and self-monitor for 14 days

In accordance with the U.S. Department of State Level 4 Travel Advisories (issued February 2, 2020 – China and February 26, 2020 - Iran), faculty and staff should NOT travel to the People’s Republic of China and Iran.

- Universities and colleges should strongly consider recalling all international students and postpone/cancel any international travel by students and faculty.
- Otherwise, students/faculty/staff should reconsider travel to any area where CDC has recognized ongoing community transmission of COVID-19. This situation is rapidly evolving. Students/faculty/staff who are planning to travel should stay up to date with information related to COVID-19 by visiting the following websites:
  - **U.S. Department of State Travel Advisories:**  
<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/traveladvisories.html/>
  - **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s Coronavirus Disease 2019 Information for Travel:**  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html>
  - **CDC’s Travel: Frequently Asked Questions and Answers:**  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/faqs.html>

Given the time of year, it is important to remember the best way to prevent transmission of *any* respiratory illness (including flu) in schools is to follow everyday preventive actions:

- Get vaccinated against the flu. With current seasonal influenza activity, it is likely there will be confusion as persons with influenza will exhibit similar signs and symptoms such as fever and cough. We strongly recommend residents ages 6 months and older protect themselves against flu by receiving the seasonal influenza vaccination.
- 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
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- Stay home when sick
- 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.

If you have any questions related to exclusion policies for school students, faculty or staff related to COVID-19, please contact HDOH at one of the numbers below.

Oahu (Disease Reporting Line)..... (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) 600-3625  
 After hours on neighbor islands.....(800) 360-2575 (toll free)

For more information, please visit HDOH's Coronavirus Disease 2019 webpage at:  
<https://health.hawaii.gov/docd/advisories/novel-coronavirus-2019/>  
or the CDC's Coronavirus Disease 2019 website at:  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>.