

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
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In reply, please refer to:  
File:

February 26, 2020

**MEDICAL ADVISORY: UPDATE ON CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19)**

Dear Healthcare Provider:

The Hawaii Department of Health (HDOH) is providing the following updates regarding Coronavirus Disease 2019:

- The period when a person may present with symptoms after possible exposure to the COVID-19 infected visitor from Japan has passed.
- Please be aware, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) continues to update Travel Advisories to include countries with **ongoing community transmission**.<sup>1</sup>
- To assist providers in determining risk categories for COVID-19 (High, Medium, Low, No Identifiable Risk), HDOH has developed a Health Risk Assessment and Management Guide—see attached Appendix.
- Current criteria for persons under investigation (PUI) for COVID-19<sup>2</sup> include:
  - Clinical features of febrile lower respiratory illness
    - Fever AND
    - Cough or shortness of breath
  - AND either 1) travel to China or 2) close contact with a confirmed case
  - Absence of an alternative diagnosis that explains the clinical presentation
  - On a case-by-case basis, HDOH may consider testing of persons who meet the clinical criteria, **require admission**, and traveled to an area recognized by CDC as having ongoing community transmission
- Submission of specimens for testing to the State Laboratories Division (SLD) **MUST** have prior authorization by HDOH's Disease Outbreak Control Division.
- Please ensure your/your facility's policies and procedures are in place to minimize exposure to respiratory pathogens, including COVID-19 virus.
  - Place a facemask on patient with suspected COVID-19, and put patient in a separate examination room with door closed. Place the patient in an airborne isolation room, if available. (SOURCE CONTROL)
  - When caring for a patient with suspected COVID-19, adhere to standard, contact, and airborne precautions, including use of eye protection. (COVER MUCOUS MEMBRANES)
  - Healthcare providers with unprotected exposure to persons with COVID-19<sup>3</sup> will be subject to active monitoring and work restrictions for 14 days after the last exposure.

<sup>1</sup><https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html>

<sup>2</sup><https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/hcp/clinical-criteria.html>

<sup>3</sup><https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-risk-assesment-hcp.html>

**\*\* This message contains privileged communication between the Department of Health and clinicians and should not be shared with or forwarded to those not included among the original recipients. \*\***

**This is a rapidly evolving situation.** To ensure you are accessing the latest information, please visit HDOH’s clinicians’ page at: <https://health.hawaii.gov/docd/for-healthcare-providers/news-updates/> or the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention COVID-19 website at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

***Providers should notify infection control personnel and HDOH’s Disease Outbreak Control Division immediately if any patients have severe respiratory symptoms and are suspected to have COVID-19.***

If you have any questions or need to report a PUI, 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)

We appreciate your continued assistance in protecting our community.

Sincerely,



Sarah Y. Park, MD, FAAP  
State Epidemiologist  
Hawaii Department of Health

Attachment



# Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

## Hawaii Department of Health (HDOH) Risk Assessment and Management Guide

1) IF COVID-19 symptoms are present:  Fever > 100.3°F **AND**  Lower respiratory illness (cough or shortness of breath) that cannot be explained by another diagnosis

2) THEN assess exposure risk:











**Case** is defined as a symptomatic person with laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 (or clinically diagnosed if laboratory testing not available)

**Intimate contact** is defined as living with, being an intimate partner of, or caring for a person w/ confirmed COVID-19 outside of a healthcare facility

**Close contact** is defined as being within 6ft for a prolonged period or having direct contact with infectious secretions of a case (e.g., being coughed on)

**Precautions** are defined as continuous use of PPE

**PUI** stands for person under investigation <https://health.hawaii.gov/docd/files/2020/01/Hawaii-PUI-Form-nCoV-2019.pdf>

Exposure Risk Categories	Management Guidance - <i>if symptomatic</i>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>High Risk</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Intimate contact with a case <i>without precautions</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Place a mask on the patient </li> <li>Isolate the patient in a private room or separate area </li> <li>Wear appropriate PPE for all patient interactions </li> <li>Evaluate patient according to <b>PUI definition</b> </li> <li>Alert HDOH  at (808) 586-4586</li> <li>Pre-notify all healthcare services </li> </ol>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Medium Risk</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Any travel from China* (past 14 days)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Intimate contact with a case <i>while using precautions</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Close contact (non-intimate) with a case <i>without precautions</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rule out other respiratory illness </li> <li>Contact HDOH  at (808) 586-4586</li> </ol>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Low Risk</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Being in the same indoor environment (e.g., airplane, restaurant) for a prolonged period but <b>not</b> having close contact with a case</p>	<p>Provide routine medical care </p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>No Identifiable Risk</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Brief interactions with cases that are not intimate or close</p>	<p>Provide routine medical care </p>

\*Those who have traveled from another location where CDC has confirmed community spread will be assessed on a case-by-case basis in consultation with HDOH