



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

May 14, 2020

MEDICAL ADVISORY: UPDATE #12—CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19)

Dear Healthcare Provider,

The Hawaii Department of Health (HDOH) is providing the following COVID-19 updates:

TESTING

As “Stay at Home” restrictions are relaxed, please remain alert for COVID-19 activity in Hawaii. While the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has issued guidance regarding priorities for COVID-19 testing,¹ you should use your clinical judgment to determine if a patient has signs and symptoms² compatible with COVID-19. Laboratory testing capacity has greatly increased in Hawaii. Therefore, consider testing patients whom you suspect may be infected to ensure rapid identification of cases and quarantine of close contacts.

Also, as personal protective equipment (PPE) supplies³ have become more available, consider collecting specimens for COVID-19 testing in the office setting:

- Collect the specimen in a normal examination room with the door closed.
- Healthcare personnel (HCP) in the room should wear an N95 or higher-level respirator (or facemask if a respirator is not available), eye protection, gloves, and a gown.
- Limit the number of HCP present during the procedure to only those essential for patient care and procedure support. Visitors should not be present for specimen collection.
- Collect a nasopharyngeal (NP) specimen and place immediately into a sterile transport tube with viral transport medium (VTM).
- Send NP specimen to a clinical laboratory or State Laboratories Division (if a Sentinel Surveillance Provider, see Medical Advisory: Update #11) for RT-PCR testing for COVID-19.

¹ <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/hcp/clinical-criteria.html>

² Cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fever, chills, myalgias, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell.

³ If your office has been unable to purchase PPE, the Healthcare Association of Hawaii advises there are at least three potential distribution channels:

1. Your regular supply chain source, if available.
2. The Wilson Care Group, here in Hawaii, has purchased PPE they are passing on at reasonable prices to community physicians and healthcare organizations. Please contact Jonathon Hughes, (808) 492-5411.
3. The emergency services coalition, Hawaii Healthcare Emergency Management (HHEM), can provide PPE and other supplies on an as-needed basis for those providers with a short-term need, up to 30 days. HHEM coalition members can access HHEM via the WebEOC. Non-members can access HHEM by e-mailing requests for specific items and quantities to info@hhemc.net.

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- Clean and disinfect procedure room surfaces promptly.⁴

Serologic tests should NOT be used for acute COVID-19 diagnosis or patient management. However, if you are notified of a POSITIVE serologic test result for any patient, collect an NP specimen for RT-PCR testing as noted above and report to HDOH.

Please complete the Case Report Form (<https://health.hawaii.gov/docd/files/2020/01/Hawaii-PUI-Form-nCoV-2019.pdf>) for any person who tests POSITIVE for COVID-19 and fax to (808) 586-4595. COVID-19 is an URGENTLY reportable condition (see telephone numbers below).

PEDIATRIC MULTI-SYSTEM INFLAMMATORY SYNDROME POTENTIALLY ASSOCIATED WITH COVID-19 IN CHILDREN

At the end of April, the United Kingdom issued an alert⁵ regarding a small number of critically ill children, many of whom had tested positive for COVID-19 infection, who developed a significant systemic inflammatory response, sharing features with atypical Kawasaki disease, toxic shock syndrome, bacterial sepsis, and macrophage activation syndromes. Reportedly abdominal pain and gastrointestinal symptoms as well as cardiac inflammation were common features. New York City subsequently released a Health Advisory⁶ on May 6, 2020 on their own investigation of 64 reported cases, the majority of which tested positive for SARS-CoV-2. The syndrome, referred to as Pediatric Multi-System Inflammatory Syndrome (PMIS), appears to occur days to weeks after acute COVID-19 illness. It is unclear whether PMIS is specific to children only.

At this time, we have not had any reports of persons with PMIS in Hawaii. Please report to HDOH any patients fulfilling the following criteria:

- An individual aged <21 years presenting with fever,^{*} laboratory evidence of inflammation,[†] and evidence of clinically severe illness requiring hospitalization, with multisystem (≥2) organ involvement (cardiac, renal, respiratory, hematologic, gastrointestinal, dermatologic or neurological); AND
- No alternative plausible diagnoses; AND
- Positive for current or recent SARS-CoV-2 infection by RT-PCR, serology, or antigen test; or COVID-19 exposure within the 4 weeks prior to the onset of symptoms

^{*}Fever ≥38.0°C for ≥24 hours, or report of subjective fever lasting ≥24 hours

[†]Including, but not limited to, one or more of the following: an elevated C-reactive protein (CRP), erythrocyte sedimentation rate (ESR), fibrinogen, procalcitonin, d-dimer, ferritin, lactic acid dehydrogenase (LDH), or interleukin 6 (IL-6), elevated neutrophils, reduced lymphocytes and low albumin

Note, some individuals may fulfill full or partial criteria for Kawasaki disease but should be reported if they meet the above criteria. Also, consider PMIS in any pediatric death with evidence of SARS-CoV-2 infection.

⁴ https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/infection-control-recommendations.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Finfection-control%2Fcontrol-recommendations.html

⁵ <https://picsociety.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/PICS-statement-re-novel-KD-C19-presentation-v2-27042020.pdf>

⁶ https://www.health.ny.gov/press/releases/2020/docs/2020-05-06_covid19_pediatric_inflammatory_syndrome.pdf

INTERISLAND TRAVEL REMINDERS

Because of the ongoing epidemiological risk associated with travel, as a reminder, private providers' offices, clinics, and other healthcare facilities should continue to discourage *any* travel for HCP. For those who do travel:

- Minimize interactions with others while traveling
- Pre-screen all patients to be seen by the traveling HCP for respiratory symptoms. Place a medical mask on any patient with a respiratory illness. As always, HCP should wear, at minimum, a medical mask and eye protection when encountering any patient with a respiratory illness.
- To prevent critical staffing shortages, providers' offices/healthcare facilities may consider allowing an HCP who has traveled to work as long as they are asymptomatic. All HCP should wear a medical mask for patient care activities while in the healthcare facility/provider office as per universal masking recommendations and adhere to appropriate and frequent hand hygiene.

This is a rapidly evolving situation. To ensure you are accessing the latest information, please visit HDOH's COVID-19 webpage at: <https://health.hawaii.gov/coronavirusdisease2019/> or CDC's COVID-19 website at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

COVID-19 is considered an **URGENT CATEGORY NOTIFIABLE CONDITION**; providers are **required to report any persons suspected to have COVID-19 or any test result positive for COVID-19**. If you have any questions or need to report a patient with suspected/confirmed COVID-19, please contact us 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 partnership to prevent the resurgence and spread of COVID-19 in our communities.

Sincerely,



Sarah Y. Park, MD, FAAP
State Epidemiologist