



## **DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **COVID-19 JOINT INFORMATION CENTER DAILY MEDIA UPDATE**

#### **DOH State Laboratories Division now capable of COVID-19 testing**

Hawai'i Department of Health (DOH) is now capable of in-state testing for COVID-19 and results can be ready within 24-48 hours of a sample being collected. This is a new, major development that enhances the state's prevention and mitigation response capabilities to further safeguard the health of the people in Hawai'i.

Previously, the state had earlier reported that testing capacity would not be ready until early next week. The DOH State Laboratories Division staff worked closely with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) around the clock to receive approval from the CDC and complete the validation process to move forward with the testing procedure in Hawai'i.

#### **No cases of COVID-19 identified in Hawai'i at this time**

Currently, there are no cases of COVID-19 identified in Hawai'i. DOH is actively preparing for possible cases and working with state, county, and federal partners including the medical community in Hawai'i. The following summary as of Feb. 29 shows the number of individuals being monitored or under quarantine. Many of these individuals were identified through screening by federal officials at the Daniel K. Inouye International Airport. These numbers fluctuate often as travelers arrive, depart, or begin and end their self-monitoring with supervision by DOH.

## **COVID-19 Summary of Numbers as of Feb. 29, 2020 (updated as new information becomes available)**

Number of Confirmed Case(s)	0
Number of Persons Under Investigation (current, testing pending)	0
Number of Persons Under Investigation (closed, testing negative)	1
Number of Persons Under Quarantine	0
Number of Persons Self-Monitoring with DOH supervision	96

Of the 96 individuals who are self-monitoring with public health supervision, 88 are on O'ahu, 5 are on Hawai'i Island, 1 is on Maui, and 2 are on Kaua'i.

**Confirmed:** Meets CDC criteria and positive test result received from a certified laboratory.

**Person Under Investigation (PUI):** Meets CDC criteria for investigation and testing pending.

**Quarantine:** Individuals are required to remain in a designated location and separated from others. They are actively monitored by Department of Health staff. Quarantine is enforceable by law.

**Monitoring:** Individuals voluntarily remain at home and refrain from work, school, gathering places, and public transit. They communicate daily with Department of Health staff.

### **Updating physician guidance and criteria for persons under investigation**

On Feb. 27, the CDC updated the definition of a Person Under Investigation (PUI) to include travelers to other areas. CDC has posted updated [Criteria to Guide Evaluation of PUI for COVID-19](#). On Feb. 26, the DOH issued a [medical advisory](#) which encourages clinicians to reach out to the health department to discuss testing if they have a patient who meets the criteria for a PUI.

### **Guidance for schools and childcare programs**

The CDC recently posted [interim guidance for administrators of childcare programs and K-12 schools](#) to plan, prepare, and respond to COVID-19. School closures have taken place in Japan and South Korea.

### **Business continuity planning**

State and county agencies are actively preparing for [continuity of business operations](#) to deal with the potential impact of COVID-19. The goal is to enable ongoing operations during a public health emergency. To address concerns about workers who have travelled to China, DOH developed a list of [frequently asked questions and answers](#) to guide local businesses.

### **Hawaii Department of Transportation (HDOT)**

HDOT Airports Division is diligently working to clean and sanitize the facilities, especially common touchpoints like escalator handrails, doorknobs, and elevator buttons at airports statewide. HDOT is currently working to install additional hand sanitizer dispensers at HNL and neighbor island airports, especially in the lobbies and high passenger volume areas. Airlines are taking precautions by continually cleaning and sanitizing public areas, equipment and aircrafts.

### **National travel advisories**

Before you travel, check out Travel Advisories and Alerts for your destination(s) at [www.travel.state.gov/destination](http://www.travel.state.gov/destination). The [State Department](#) and the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) provide specific advice to travelers on their websites.

### **Preventing the spread of misinformation and disease**

The Department of Health is committed to sharing information as it becomes available. People are urged not to spread misinformation or inaccurate statements that are not confirmed, and keep updated and informed on the situation. Everyone can help prevent the spread of respiratory illness with these everyday actions.

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are 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.
- CDC does not recommend that people who are well wear a facemask to protect themselves from illnesses, including COVID-19. Keep in mind that supplies are limited and we need to make sure there are enough masks for our front-line health care workers. If you are sick then wear a mask to protect the people around you.
- Prepare for the possibility that people may want to stay home or may be asked to stay home to prevent the spread of illness.
  - If you have daily medication needs, have more than a week's supply on hand and have as much on hand as your insurance will allow you to have.
  - Not everyone can afford to stock up on supplies or has the space to store them, but anything you can arrange in advance means one less inconvenience or one less trip to the store while you are sick.
  - Make family plans for the possibility of school or day care closures. Do some contingency planning in advance at the family level.
- Sign up for public notifications at [health.hawaii.gov/news/covid-19-updates](http://health.hawaii.gov/news/covid-19-updates).

### **Screening of arriving passengers at Daniel K. Inouye International Airport in Honolulu**

Foreign nationals who have traveled to mainland China within the last 14 days are being denied entry into the U.S. This includes not only people with a China passport, but all foreign nationals per [Department of Homeland Security guidance](#). The exception is U.S. citizens, legal permanent U.S. residents or their immediate family.

Enhanced screening procedures are in place at Daniel K. Inouye International Airport to help keep the public and traveling community safe. An additional feature is the non-contact thermal temperature scanners that are used for incoming passengers from China. [Airport passenger screening](#) continues to be conducted by federal authorities from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Customs and Border Protection (CBP).



**SITUATION IN NUMBERS**  
total and new cases in last 24 hours

**Globally**

85 403 confirmed (1753 new)

**China**

79 394 confirmed (435 new)  
2838 deaths (47 new)

**Outside of China**

6009 confirmed (1318 new)  
53 countries (2 new)  
86 deaths (19 new)

**WHO RISK ASSESSMENT**

China	Very High
Regional Level	Very High
Global Level	Very High

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