



## Department of Health issues coronavirus guidance

The Hawai'i State Department of Education (HIDOE) is working closely with the Hawai'i Department of Health (DOH) on guidance to prevent and respond to the spread of the coronavirus (2019-nCoV).

The following guidance from DOH has been issued for education organizations:

- Schools should not expect to see students, faculty or staff who have traveled to mainland China on campus without documentation of clearance by DOH.
- DOH will contact the school if a student, faculty or staff member is identified for home monitoring and will provide a time period when the individual should not attend school.
- Either quarantine or home monitoring will apply to travelers returning to Hawai'i who were in mainland China in the previous 14 days.

School-related travel to mainland China for HIDOE students, faculty and staff is suspended indefinitely. [Click here](#) to view the memo from Superintendent Christina Kishimoto.

Though the immediate health risk in Hawai'i is low for 2019-nCoV, we recognize the seriousness of the situation and encourage everyone to stay informed with credible sources. For more information, please visit [DOH's Novel Coronavirus webpage](#) or the [CDC's 2019 Novel Coronavirus website](#).

Given the time of year, it is also important to emphasize that the best way to prevent the transmission of any respiratory illness is by doing the following:

- Get vaccinated against the flu. With current seasonal influenza activity, similar signs and symptoms such as fever and cough could be mistaken for the coronavirus. DOH strongly recommends residents ages 6 months and older to protect themselves by receiving the seasonal flu vaccination.
- Stay home when sick.
- 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.
- 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.

For questions regarding 2019-nCoV, please contact Timothy Lino, administrator, School Health Section, at (808) 305-9787 or [Timothy.Lino@k12.hi.us](mailto:Timothy.Lino@k12.hi.us).