

# DON'T INFECT, PLEASE PROTECT.

## CAPITOL CONNECTION

April 2020

### Governor orders quarantine for arrivals, state shutdown

A few months ago, who would have thought a strange, new virus would spread across the globe, sicken thousands of people, and affect every aspect of our daily lives. To protect Hawai'i against COVID-19, the state, counties and a broad range of community partners have launched an all-out public health campaign to slow the spread of the disease. This edition describes some of the most recent developments in this rapidly changing environment and provides advice on how we can keep each other safe.

**Q. What is the state doing to protect the community? How can people help?**

**A. We're tackling the problem on every level: mandating a first-in-the-nation, 14-day self-quarantine for both residents and visitors, arriving or returning to Hawai'i, as well as those traveling inter-island; a statewide 'stay at home' order through April 30 (except for essential services);** closing facilities; and coordinating with healthcare providers to make sure they have the resources they need. We need to take care of our people and communities first. Our directives also include limiting gatherings to groups of 10 or less, closing bars and clubs, and providing only drive-thrus and take-outs at restaurants. These actions are extreme, but they will help flatten the curve and lay the groundwork for a quicker recovery. We need to come together as a community to fight this virus.



Gov. Ige mandates quarantines for arrivals and a statewide shutdown.

**The best thing people can do to slow the spread is to maintain social distance.** We want people to be smart about taking care of themselves and others — especially our seniors. That means avoiding crowds, staying home if you're sick and washing hands often. So far, it appears that about 80 percent of people experience mild to moderate symptoms from the virus, but reports show that senior citizens are much more vulnerable and even young people may spread the disease without realizing it. It should be noted that nearly all of the cases that have tested positive have been travel-related. **The majority are Hawai'i residents who were infected somewhere else and returned to the islands. We're also carefully monitoring "community spread."**

**Q. If people have flu-like symptoms, what should they do?**

**A. The first thing to do is to self-isolate** and call their doctor or the nearest healthcare provider, who can make recommendations for care and determine if COVID-19 testing is needed. To keep our resources from being overwhelmed, the state Health department is reminding everyone that the tests are intended for those experiencing more serious symptoms. The public can go to the new DOH website at [HawaiiCovid19.com](https://www.hawaii.gov/doh/covid19/) for the latest information and advice (See story and more resources on Page 2).

**Q. How can the Department of Health's statewide community surveillance testing program help us?**

**A. This "sentinel surveillance" is an important tool to help detect if COVID-19 is circulating in our community.** We're testing samples statewide from people who tested negative for the flu to see if they test positive for COVID-19. This surveillance will help us identify cases of "community spread" of the virus so we know where we need to take steps to contain it. Hawai'i is one of the first states to use this, and, so far, indications are the spread has been limited.

**Q. What are your concerns about the effect of COVID-19 on the state's economy and people's jobs?**

**A. We know our state economy is going to take a hit, but our first priority is saving lives.** The second is economic stability. We have taken steps to help our local businesses and employees who are being laid off. This includes a loan program for small businesses, systems to make it easier for people filing unemployment claims, and an initiative to connect the unemployed with sectors hiring employees to combat COVID-19. The economists and industry officials I've talked with are confident Hawai'i will rebound.

# Keep everyone safe: Do your part to slow the spread

## STAY UPDATED WITH NEW COVID-19 WEBSITE

The state has launched a new website — [www.hawaiiicovid19.com](http://www.hawaiiicovid19.com) — to equip residents and visitors with accurate, easy-to-understand information to help control the spread of COVID-19. It will serve as a hub for Hawai'i's coordinated community effort to combat the disease statewide. The public can also receive daily updates from the Department of Health (DOH) by going to <https://health.hawaii.gov/news/covid-19-updates/>.

DOH director Bruce Anderson emphasized, "Staying informed with reliable, current guidance is a key in our community's fight against COVID-19. In the coming weeks, this site will be a critical source of information."

### The website currently contains information on:

- Daily prevention for individuals and families
- Guidance and best practices for community spaces
- How to protect those most at risk
- Symptoms and testing protocols
- Daily updates from the state Department of Health
- Printable materials for use in homes and public places

### PLEASE PROTECT, DON'T INFECT

#### Basic advice to prevent infection

- Wash your hands often and avoid touching your face
- Cover your cough or sneeze
- Avoid crowds and practice "social distancing"
- Stay home if you're sick to avoid infecting others
- Clean and disinfect "common touch" surfaces

### WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I FEEL SICK?

- **First, contact your healthcare provider** to determine if you need to have an in-person visit and whether you meet the criteria for COVID-19 testing. People eligible for testing must have symptoms, including fever, cough or shortness of breath and have recently traveled to high-risk areas, had contact with tourists, exposure to someone who has tested positive, or have jobs that put them at risk. **For testing, you will need a doctor's referral unless you are already at a facility with physicians on-site.**
- Healthcare personnel at one of the screening sites will take a swab and the specimen will be sent to a private or state lab for testing. During this time, **you must self-quarantine at home until the test results are available**, which could be up to 3 to 4 days or longer.
- If you are healthy or have mild to moderate flu-like symptoms, the Department of Health urges you **to stay at home, rest, drink liquids, and avoid an unnecessary visit to a screening site.**

### CALL IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS

The Aloha United Way call center is open daily between 7 a.m. – 10 p.m. seven days a week. Call 2-1-1 from any location in the state; text 877-275-6569; or email [info211@auw.org](mailto:info211@auw.org)

The public can also contact the **Queen's Medical Center COVID-19 infoline at (808) 691-2619**. Clinicians will be available to callers 24-7.

Questions on the exemptions can be sent to: [CovidExemption@hawaii.gov](mailto:CovidExemption@hawaii.gov)  
Offers to volunteer and resources to assist: [CovidKokua@hawaii.gov](mailto:CovidKokua@hawaii.gov)



Keep a safe  
**DISTANCE**

## STATE ACTIONS TO SLOW SPREAD OF COVID-19

### GOVERNOR DAVID IGE'S DIRECTIVES

- Both residents and visitors arriving or returning to Hawai'i will be required to self-quarantine for 14 days.
- Visitors are strongly encouraged to postpone their Hawai'i vacations for at least 30 days.
- Statewide 'stay at home, work from home' order, except for essential services and activities. Outdoor exercising at a safe distance (6 feet from others) is allowed.
- Restaurants closed, except for drive-thru, take-out, pick-up or delivery.
- Limit activities, except for essential needs, such as getting food, medicine or other necessities.
- Avoid discretionary travel.
- Suspend services and activities in places of worship.
- Do not visit nursing homes or retirement long-term care facilities.
- Stay home if you are a high-risk individual and take additional precautionary measures.
- If someone in your household has tested positive for COVID-19, keep the entire household at home.

### ADDITIONAL STEPS TO MAINTAIN COMMUNITY STABILITY

- All utilities are urged to avoid shut-off of services such as electricity, gas, water, internet, landline telephones and cell phones. This includes taking necessary measures to ensure they can continue to operate in the normal course. Applies to fuel producers, shipping facilities and industry, financial institutions and services, telecommunication companies, wholesalers/distributors, grocery stores, pharmacies, gas stations and other industries vital to our community.
- The business community is urged to halt foreclosures and evictions and, to the extent possible, ensure benefits for employees.

### UPDATES FROM THE DOE AND UH SYSTEM

- Public and charter schools: School facilities will be closed to students until at least April 30, and traditional in-school instruction is on hold. However, teachers are working remotely, and the schools will be providing online resources as well as printed instructional packets for students lacking internet access. About 40 schools statewide are pick-up sites for Grab-and-Go breakfasts and lunches
- State libraries remain closed, but there will be no fees for late returns. Online resources are still available.
- UH statewide system: UH instruction for all 10 campuses statewide will be conducted online for the rest of the semester. All traditional spring 2020 commencement ceremonies are cancelled.

# State, counties on high alert as residents hunker down

Hawai'i has dealt with hurricanes, floods and volcanic eruptions, but a global pandemic? **"We need to come together as a community to fight this virus,"** said Governor Ige. In his supplementary emergency proclamations, the governor has mandated 14-day quarantines for **both residents and visitors, arriving or returning to Hawai'i, as well as for those traveling inter-island.** "We want this action to send the message to visitors that we appreciate their love for Hawai'i, but we are asking them to postpone their visit," he said. To reinforce the message of community solidarity, the governor was flanked at the March 21 news conference by tourism and union leaders and state and county officials.

Those who break quarantine would face a **\$5,000 fine, or imprisonment of not more than one year, or both.** Enforcement is being handled by each of Hawai'i's four counties. **The quarantine, which is in effect until April 30, 2020, would apply to international and mainland flights.** All arriving visitors and residents are required to complete a Hawai'i Department of Agriculture form distributed onboard their flight. Upon arrival, they will go through a checkpoint and present the completed form with a valid identification. More details for inter-island travelers are pending.

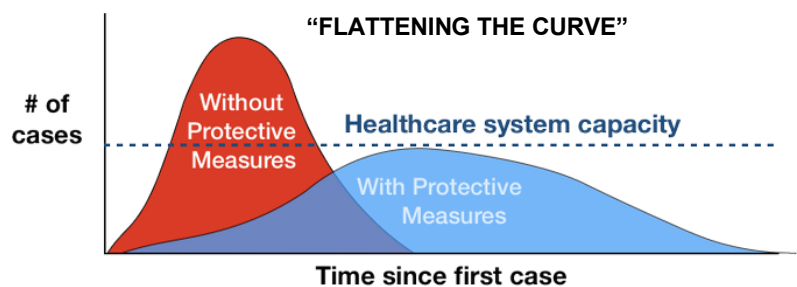
The governor also issued a sweeping statewide **"stay at home" order, except for essential activities, effective through April 30.**

(See details at <https://bit.ly/2Uskxj0>). "If everyone commits to doing their part, then we will be successful in bending the curve," said the governor. This order was in addition to the Department of Education's temporary closing of the state's public schools, public libraries, parks and other facilities, the suspension of the current Legislative session, Neighborhood Board meetings and large public gatherings on all islands. It also follows a supplementary proclamation that specifically addressed the problem of residents hoarding supplies and urged the public to report instances of price gouging to the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs.

**To limit community spread of COVID-19,** the proclamation also suspends provisions of the state public meetings law, known as the "Sunshine law," so boards can conduct business through remote technology rather than through large in-person meetings. In addition, the governor has put into place a directive for all state department and agency heads to identify employees who are considered "essential" (required to report to work), "non-essential" (able to work remotely from home), or "non-essential" (unable to work remotely but could be reassigned).

**If there's any good news amidst all of this,** it's that the islands have decades of experience in disaster preparedness and response. For COVID-19, it's "all hands on deck" in ways Hawai'i and the world have never dealt with before — from state, county and federal agencies to healthcare, business, nonprofit and community partners across the islands. The **state Department of Health** has been working around the clock to provide daily media updates to keep the public informed on local COVID-19 cases, expert advice and state mandates, and guidance from the Centers for Disease Control.

The governor has appointed **Kenneth S. Hara, director of HI-EMA,** as "incident commander" of Hawai'i's coronavirus response, working closely with **Health director Bruce Anderson, state epidemiologist Sarah Park, the state Department of Transportation, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).** Hara said planning is under way with the National Guard and other state departments to identify the most effective ways to control the spread of the virus, protect communities, and maintain supplies for the islands. **Hilton Raethel, president and CEO of the Healthcare Association of Hawaii (HAH),** said he has been working with **Lt. Gov. Josh Green's COVID Task Force** on testing sites and ensuring the medical community's readiness. Officials are reminding people to help "flatten the curve" to avoid a spike in cases at a time when we have to conserve healthcare resources. **"Everyone needs to take responsibility to avoid infection,"** said DOH director Bruce Anderson. **"That means social distancing and understanding that not everyone needs to be tested."**



## BRIGHT SPOT

# Milken winner Cacace promotes creativity, compassion

There wasn't a red carpet at Ewa Makai Middle School, but in the eyes of her students and colleagues, **Miki Cacace** is every bit a star. As Hawai'i's 2020 Milken Educator award winner — called the "Oscars" of teaching — Cacace received the surprise of her life and \$25,000 March 10 for her dedication to her profession. She is one of 40 teachers across the nation who was honored.



Milken winner Miki Cacace

Cacace, a computer coding teacher, was praised for the creativity and compassion she brings to the classroom. "Her students love her because she's very kind and patient," said a colleague. She has been teaching in the state's public schools since 2008 and gives her students hands-on training in developing games, apps and websites to show them the real-world possibilities of coding skills and STEM careers.

She also created a website that colleagues can use to develop a "caring culture" for their classes. As she told the Honolulu Star-Advertiser, "The students that give you the most challenge are the ones that need the most love," she said. "The reason I became a teacher is because I wanted to make a difference. In middle school we get to make that difference because they're trying to learn who they are and what they're about."



## Free resources for families staying at home

For families looking to make the most of their time at home, First Lady Dawn Amano-Ige and state librarian Stacey Aldrich encourage everyone to visit the Hawai'i State Library system's user-friendly website at <https://www.librarieshawaii.org>. It offers ebooks, audio books and pre-K to 3<sup>rd</sup> grade interactive books with games for children.

PBS Kids at <https://pbskids.org> has a variety of free resources to support families, including educational games, a newsletter, activities and tips for parents, including "How to

Talk to Your Kids about Coronavirus" at <https://www.pbs.org/parents/thrive/how-to-talk-to-your-kids-about-coronavirus>. In Hawai'i, the Honolulu Theatre for Youth has launched **The HI Way** at [htyweb.org](http://htyweb.org), a new digital series to help children understand the need for social distancing and other COVID-19 challenges.

A host of other sites are offering free concerts, such as "Together at Home" in partnership with the World Health Organization. Closer to home, a new livestream series called #QuarantineHawaiiConcertSeries is on Facebook and Instagram.

## Help available for the unemployed, small businesses

The Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR) has a new digital form to apply for unemployment benefits that can be submitted 24 hours a day. DLIR has also increased its staff to handle the surge in applications. For phone application appointments, call 762-5752. The new claim form is at <https://huiclaims.hawaii.gov/#/>

DLIR is also looking to connect people to Hawai'i businesses looking for workers, especially for fighting COVID-19. **The Reducing Unemployment Disruption & Driving Economic Regeneration (RUDDER) program** provides up to \$100,000 of relief for Hawai'i businesses who hired new employees after March 1, 2020.

Hawai'i small businesses suffering financial losses from the impact of COVID-19 can now file for **low-interest working capital loans of up to \$2 million from the Small Business Administration (SBA)**. A certification request submitted by Governor Ige cleared the way for the state's business owners to participate in the **SBA's Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) Assistance Program**. The loans can be used to pay fixed debts, payroll and other bills that can't be paid because of a disaster's impact. Loan forms and more information are available at the <https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/disaster-assistance>. "Small businesses are a vital economic driver in our community, and we must do everything we can to support them as they struggle through this crisis," said the governor.

**Complete your Census questionnaire online at <https://my2020census.gov>. Your responses are safe, secure and protected by federal law.**

**The filing deadlines for tax returns have been extended to July 15, 2020 for federal income tax and July 20 for state income tax.**

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