

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



BRUCE S. ANDERSON, Ph.D.
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. BOX 3378
HONOLULU, HI 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:
File:

May 13, 2020

SENT VIA EMAIL

The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz
Email: sendelacruz@capitol.hawaii.gov

Dear Senator Dela Cruz:

The documents requested by the Senate's Special Committee on COVID-19 at a hearing on April 30, 2020 are attached. The Senate Special Committee inquired about Department of Health (DOH) plans and related materials, including infographics, explaining various testing activities.

DOH has developed the following public documents relating to pandemic response strategy:

1. Disease Surveillance and Investigation Plan;
2. Infographic on surveillance and monitoring activities;
3. Specific information on sentinel surveillance activities;
4. Infographic on COVID-19 statewide testing activities and capacity; and
5. Infographic on contact tracing.

The department maintains pandemic response plans as a matter of routine operations, but since each outbreak is unique – whether it be influenza or other pathogen such as in the case of COVID-19 – the basic template must be adjusted as the outbreaks are analyzed and understood, and will continue to evolve as our knowledge of the disease deepens.

Although systematic testing is a critical component to any pandemic response, we already know that the most effective prevention strategy is social distancing and personal hygiene; no further amount of testing will alter that public health guidance given what we know today about the virus.

These documents are intended for general public consumption and are subject to change. It is also important to be aware that factors such as disease activity, federal guidance, or local deliberations to reopen Hawaii's economy based on a public health framework may necessitate updating the materials. For that reason, please consider these attachments as interim documents as this continues to be an emerging, rapidly evolving situation.

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We look forward to the opportunity to share our plans and partners with the Senate Special Committee and communicate effectively with the public at-large, so Hawaii's residents have confidence in our community's ability to control this disease.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bruce S. Anderson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Bruce" being more prominent.

Bruce S. Anderson, Ph.D.
Director of Health