



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS  
HONOLULU

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR

April 9, 2020

Senate Special Committee on COVID-19  
Thirtieth State Legislature  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Subject: COVID-19 Supplies and Policies Update

Dear Senators:

On behalf of Governor David Y. Ige, this responds to the inquiry from the Senate Special Committee. There is a global shortage of personal protective equipment (PPE), and every State is racing to acquire sufficient quantities of PPE to protect healthcare workers and first responders as a top priority. Some healthcare facilities report that with the increasing number of potential novel coronavirus cases, they have used six month's supply of PPE in a single month.

In early March, the State of Hawai'i requested deployment of PPE from the Strategic National Stockpile through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). After some delay, we received only 25% of the requested quantities. FEMA has advised states that they should procure PPE on their own, as the SNS will be prioritized to support communities of highest need in the future

We are working to establish a reliable and timely supply of PPE to ensure that we can protect our healthcare workers and first responders from private services.

The State supports the counties' recommendation that individuals wear cloth face coverings in public settings. The cloth face covering should not include surgical masks, or N-95 respirators needed by healthcare professionals and first responders.

The State Emergency Operations Center receives regular updates from the Counties and healthcare facilities about the status of their PPE inventories.

The Hawai'i Department of Health (DOH) and the CDC have provided guidance to businesses and employers to:

- Reduce transmission among employees.
- Maintain healthy business operations.
- Maintain a healthy work environment.

You can find more complete guidance at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-business-response.html>

The Statewide plan to reduce the spread of COVID-19 includes:

1. Stay-at-Home or in their place of residence. Individuals may leave their home only for essential activities, to engage in essential businesses and operations, and if their work cannot be conducted through remote technology from home.
2. Closed bars, clubs, theaters, and visitor attractions.
3. Close restaurants or provide drive-thru, take-out, pick-up or delivery.
4. Suspend services and activities in places of worship.
5. Ordered mandatory 14-day self-quarantine for all travelers entering the state.
6. Ordered mandatory 14-day self-quarantine for inter-island travelers, except those traveling for medical and healthcare. People traveling inter-island to perform essential functions are subject to quarantine, except while performing essential functions.

In order to flatten the curve and reduce the spread of COVID-19, individuals are encouraged to:

1. Stay-at-home, work-at-home, except when performing essential functions.
2. Stay at home when sick, keep children at home when sick, isolate from others.
3. Leave your home only for essential needs, wear a cloth face covering.
4. No social gatherings of any size, anywhere.
5. Wash your hands frequently or use hand sanitizer.
6. Clean and sanitize high touch areas frequently.

Your interest and support are appreciated.

Sincerely,

*Linda Chu Takayama*

Linda Chu Takayama  
Chief of Staff, Office of the Governor