



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

P.O. BOX 2360

HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

March 15, 2021

Certified Mail No. 7020 0090 0000 6313 5592
Return Receipt Requested

Mr. Randy Perreira
Executive Director
Hawaii Government Employees Association
888 Mililani Street, Suite 401
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813-2991

Re: Revised Health and Safety Protocols to Safely Ramp-Up In-Person
Learning During the Fourth Quarter

Dear Mr. Perreira:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (HIDOE) has worked closely with the Hawaii State Department of Health (DOH) on ensuring our health and safety protocols are consistent with the latest DOH guidance for schools as we project an increase of in-person learning for the remainder of the school year 2020-2021.

Some of the revised health and safety protocols for the ramp-up of in-person instruction include:

- **Advance notice:** Schools shall provide a minimum notice of seven calendar days before an increase to in-person schooling.
- **Remote work during quarantine:** In the event of a classroom, workspace, and/or building being closed due to COVID-19 and students being sent home and/or being directed to quarantine, employees identified as a close contact needing to quarantine in accordance with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)/Department of Health (DOH) school guidance shall continue to work from a remote location when able.

- **Mitigation strategies:** Regardless of the level of community transmission, all schools shall use and layer mitigation strategies aligned to CDC guidance, DOH guidelines, and the HIDOE's Return to Learn Health and Safety Handbook. These strategies include:
 - **Core essential strategies to be implemented in every situation:** Staying home when unwell and going home if you become unwell at school, consistent masking, and hand hygiene; and
 - **Mitigation strategies to be applied in combination to the greatest extent possible:** Cohorting, physical distancing (ideally, at least 6 feet), adjusting ventilation systems, introduce additional outside air and/or increase air exchange, and physical barriers (most important when masking and physical distancing cannot be maintained and cleaning high-touch areas).

These health and safety protocols, including mitigation strategies and expectations, apply equally to HGEA members as well as other HIDOE employees.

We appreciate your continued support and willingness to work collaboratively as we safely ramp-up the increased return of students to in-person learning.

Please contact Jarnett Lono, Personnel Director, Employee Relations, at (808) 441-8453 or email at jarnett.lono@k12.hi.us if you have any additional questions.

Sincerely,



Dr. Christina M. Kishimoto
Superintendent

CMK:cac