September 16, 2021

TO: The Honorable Catherine Payne  
Chairperson, Board of Education

FROM: Keith T. Hayashi  
Interim Superintendent

SUBJECT: Update on Opening Schools for the 2021-2022 School Year: Continuing Education for Students in Isolation and Quarantine, Department Employee Vaccination Status Data, COVID-19 Cases in Schools and School Positivity Rates, Masking Guidance Changes, Distance Learning Status Update for the Department’s State Distance Learning Program and Kaiapuni Programs, Expanding COVID-19 Testing in Schools, and Readiness of Schools to Transition to Distance Learning

BACKGROUND

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) continues to prioritize safe in-person learning as we approach the midpoint of the first quarter of School Year 2021-22. The increase in cases in the state and the delta variant were unexpected as schools prepared to re-engage students following two COVID-disrupted academic years.

The evolving pandemic demands our attention and focus to keep schools open for in-person learning and safe for students and employees. The Department is working closely with the Hawaii State Department of Health (DOH) to respond with updated safety strategies and heightened monitoring and enforcement.

Our schools remain open to serve students.
Our COVID-19 Health and Safety Guidance continues to reflect the latest recommendations from the DOH, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other health experts. Schools and offices are implementing four core essential strategies to mitigate exposure and spread: encouraging COVID-19 vaccinations among eligible students and staff, consistent and correct mask usage, staying home when sick, and proper hand hygiene.

The DOH advises that in-person education always requires the implementation of the core essential strategies. Other strategies, including designated cohorts, improving ventilation, physical distancing, screening testing, and cleaning and disinfection, are to be applied in combination with the core essential strategies to the greatest extent possible. According to the DOH, using multiple mitigation measures consistently and in combination gives schools the flexibility to achieve safe learning environments even when not every mitigation measure can be applied.

To provide accurate and timely information to families and the public, the Department recently developed an interactive dashboard available on our website that displays confirmed COVID cases in the Department’s schools and offices. The daily case counts on the dashboard reflect confirmed cases reported the day prior.

While there are cases being reported within the public school system, the mitigation strategies our schools are implementing have proven to be effective at quickly identifying cases and preventing spread. Keeping our schools safe and open for in-person learning requires a shared commitment from all of us to prevent and mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

PRESENTATION

The attached presentation provides updates on the Department’s opening of the 2021-22 school year.

KTH:nk
Attachment

c: Deputy Superintendent
   Assistant Superintendents
   Complex Area Superintendents
OFFICE OF THE Superintendent

Agenda Item V.A. Update on Opening Schools for the 2021-2022 School Year: Continuing Education for Students in Isolation and Quarantine, Department Employee Vaccination Status Data, COVID-19 Cases in Schools and School Positivity Rates, Masking Guidance Changes, Distance Learning Status Update for the Department’s State Distance Learning Program and Kaiapuni Programs, Expanding COVID-19 Testing in Schools, and Readiness of Schools to Transition to Distance Learning

Board of Education General Business Meeting
September 16, 2021

Keith T. Hayashi
Interim Superintendent

Phyllis Unebasami
Deputy Superintendent
Continuing Education for Students Impacted by COVID-19

Hilo Intermediate Packet Pickup

Ewa Makai Middle Distance Learning
Update on Vaccination Status of Employees

89% of salaried employees are vaccinated

As of August 31, 2021
Update on COVID Cases in Schools

Update on Masking Guidance

COVID-19 Health and Safety Guidance for SY 2021-22

Core Mitigation Strategies

Collaboration with DOH and local health service providers

- STAY HOME IF UNWELL
- WASH YOUR HANDS
- WEAR A FACE MASK
- GET VACCINATED
Update on Distance Learning

Complex Areas and School Level

- Coordinated programs and individual school programs approved by respective Complex Area Superintendent and submitted to the Office of Curriculum and Instructional Design.
- Example: Daniel K. Inouye Elementary is a host site for complex-wide, distance learning for Leilehua-Mililani-Waialua students.

State Distance Learning Program

- Currently serving approximately 625 students in partnership with 60 schools from across the state.
- As of September 7, all referred students are in classes with a teacher.
Kaiapuni: Distance Learning
Update on On-Campus Testing
# Update on Contingency Planning

## Hawaii COVID-19 School Guidance

**Last Updated:** Wednesday, September 8, 2021 (updated daily)

### Dates Covering 8/31/2021 to 9/6/2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Island</th>
<th>7-day Average Case Rate</th>
<th>7-day Percent Test Positivity</th>
<th>Community Transmission Level</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>State</td>
<td>49.6</td>
<td>7.2%</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hawaii</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>7.8</td>
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<td>Substantial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oahu</td>
<td>48.3</td>
<td>8.2%</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Hawaii COVID-19 Community Transmission Levels for Schools

- **Low:** 0-2.0 avg cases per 100K and 0-0.99% percent test positivity
- **Moderate:** 2.1-5.0 avg cases per 100K or 1.0-2.49% percent test positivity
- **Substantial:** 5.1-10.3 avg cases per 100K or 2.5-5.0% percent test positivity
- **High:** 10.4+ avg cases per 100K or 5.1%+ percent test positivity

*Click icon to view COVID-19 Guidance for Schools*
Mahalo!