




STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

February 28, 2020

TO: Complex Area Superintendents, Principals, Vice Principals,
Public Charter School Directors, Registrars, School Health Assistants

FROM: Dr. Christina M. Kishimoto 
Superintendent

SUBJECT: **COVID-19 Travel Guidance**

The purpose of this memo is to provide travel guidance to the Hawaii State Department of Education (HIDOE) community as it pertains to COVID-19.

While the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) believes the risk to the general American public remains low, we want to encourage the HIDOE community to stay informed and proactive with regard to their health and safety.

HIDOE SCHOOL TRAVEL POLICY

- All school-related travel to and from **Warning Level 3** and **Alert Level 2** countries is suspended until the CDC lowers its travel advisory to **Watch Level 1**.
- All programs that involve travel to or from **Warning Level 3** and **Alert Level 2** countries are also suspended until the CDC lowers its travel advisory to **Watch Level 1**. This includes summer school enrollment and non-essential visitors on campus from these countries.
- The information contained in the original memo, **2019 Novel Coronavirus**, dated February 5, 2020 is still in effect. All travel by school groups to the People's Republic of China (mainland China), with the exception of Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan, will be suspended until further notice. Please realize that guidance from the CDC may change suddenly.

GENERAL TRAVEL RECOMMENDATIONS (Per CDC website)

Warning Level 3: China and South Korea

All non-essential travel to these countries should be avoided. If extraordinary circumstances require you to travel to these countries, you must notify your school prior to leaving and upon your return. You will be expected to observe a minimum 14-day self-quarantine period and be seen by a physician. If you are experiencing flu-like symptoms upon your return, you may be required to undergo a mandatory quarantine by state health officials.

Alert Level 2: Japan, Iran, and Italy

All non-essential travel to these countries should be avoided. If traveling to these countries, you should exercise caution. If the country you are traveling to becomes reclassified as Warning Level 3 while you are overseas, you will be expected to notify the school upon your return and self-quarantine for a minimum of 14 days.

Watch Level 1: Hong Kong

There are currently no restrictions to travel to Hong Kong, which is in the **Watch Level 1** category. Travelers to Hong Kong should practice usual precautions. Again, know that this situation is fluid, and all travelers should monitor the CDC website for up-to-date information.

For additional information related to the spread of COVID-19 along with overseas travel guidelines, please refer to the following sites:

- [Hawai'i Department of Health](#)
- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#)
- [World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#)
- [US State Department China Travel Advisory](#)

Mahalo for your cooperation and diligence as we collectively work to ensure the safety and well-being of our schools and communities. If you have any questions or concerns regarding COVID-19, please contact Dr. Timothy Lino, Administrator, School Health Section, at (808) 305-9787 or via email at timothy.lino@k12.hi.us.

CMK:tl

c: Deputy Superintendent
Assistant Superintendents
State Public Charter School Commission
Office of Student Support Services