



November 16, 2021

Hawai'i Nurses Ask the Public to Get Vaccinated, Get Boosters and to Practice Cautious Gathering During the Upcoming Holiday Season

We are nurses, nurse leaders and chief nursing officers working in Hawai'i healthcare organizations

While Delta variant cases in Hawai'i have decreased due to the recent efforts by the public and healthcare workers, Hawai'i nurses are urging the community to not let their guard down. We continue to experience community spread here and there are still nearly 400,000 residents who are not fully vaccinated. We ask that the unvaccinated and caregivers of children consider getting the vaccine for themselves and their eligible children. We are encouraging those who are eligible to get a booster vaccination, and to get it soon. With the upcoming holiday season approaching, we are asking the public to continue practicing safe gathering to prevent future increases in cases.

- **COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective.** More than 6.5 billion vaccine doses have been administered worldwide with more than 2 million doses in the State of Hawai'i. These vaccines have undergone and will continue to undergo the most intensive safety monitoring in U.S. history. The COVID-19 vaccines are the best way to reduce severe illness, hospitalization, and death for adults and children.
- **Booster shots for certain people are now available.** We are asking those who are eligible to get their booster vaccination to increase their immunity to and protection from the disease.
- **Wear your mask, wash your hands and follow guidelines for gathering.** The best ways to keep yourself from getting COVID-19 are to wear your mask, wash your hands and limit the size of your gatherings. With the holiday season approaching, it is natural to want to return to the pre-pandemic normal. We are reminding the community that the COVID-19 virus is still out there, with more variants developing. Please do not let your guard down.

There are more than 16,000 Hawai'i nurses who have served the community during the pandemic. These nurses protect the community from COVID-19 through vaccination efforts; prevent the virus spread through contact tracing and testing efforts; reduce severity of illness through antibody clinics; and care for people with COVID-19 who are severely ill or dying in hospitals.

After 2 years of immense struggle, Hawai'i nurses are facing severe emotional and physical hardship. They have experienced the moral distress caused by COVID-19; endured untenable workload demands imposed on nurses; and witnessed the fear, pain, agony, and regret as patients suffer and die from COVID-19.

While exhausted, Hawai'i nurses remain committed to providing care to the public. We need the public's help to keep COVID-19 out of our community. We will do our part to care for you when you are sick, please do your part and get vaccinated.

We Are Hawai'i Nurses

Andrea Moralez	COL Prentice R. Price	Linda Beechinor
Andrew Moats	Diane Hale	Luzviminda Banez Miguel
Anne Scharnhorst	Doreen Nakamura	Marian Horikawa-Barth
Beth Hoban	Katherine Finn Davis	Nancy Atmospera-Walch
Bradley Kuo	Kelly Johnson	Pamela Smith
Brigitte McKale	Kristina Clark	Poki'i Balaz
Clementina D. Ceria-Ulep	Laura Reichhardt	Rhoberta Haley

Alternate versions of this document may be requested at:

2528 McCarthy Mall, Webster 402 Honolulu, HI 96822
T 808.956.5211 F 808.956.0547 hscfn@hawaii.edu hawaiiicenterfornursing.org