



DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

HAWAI'I COVID-19 JOINT INFORMATION CENTER
DAILY NEWS DIGEST
June 12, 2020

Governor's Office:

Governor Ige Provides Perspective on New Cases

During his regular news briefing today, Governor David Ige said the increase in the number of COVID-19 cases was expected as normal activities resumed along with the reopening of many businesses. He said, "Most importantly we have the capacity to handle this level of cases as we still have low numbers...still the best in the country." Governor Ige warned that more cases are expected as Hawai'i gets closer to broader reopening of travel to the state.

Top State Leaders Working on Multi-Layered Approach to Travel

With the reopening of interisland travel next Tuesday, Governor Ige and some of his top advisors are working on numerous components necessary before opening up travel to and from the mainland and from foreign destinations. Lieutenant Governor Josh Green and DOH Administrator Bruce Anderson are leading a committee currently investigating testing methods for trans-Pacific travelers. Mike McCartney, the administrator of the Dept. of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) is working with the governor on exploring travel corridors. Hawai'i Tourism Authority President and CEO Chris Tatum is leading a committee working on further guidelines for the visitor industry. "We have a lot of details to work through. Above all we want to protect the health of all Hawai'i residents and we'll provide updates when the plan is ready," Governor Ige said. He encouraged continued personal responsibility, including social distancing, use of face masks, frequent hand washing and staying at home if sick.

Department of Health:

Spike in O'ahu Case Numbers – Links to Previously Identified Cases

13 of 15 new cases of COVID-19 being reported on O'ahu today are all related to four known cases or ongoing investigations. Ten (10) of the cases are part of a family cluster in the same household and all the family members were previously in quarantine when someone in the family tested positive. Also, three (3) of the positive cases are in communities where DOH is actively canvassing door-to-door to provide educational information and to offer testing. Of the new cases, nine (9) are adults and six (6) are pediatric cases. Yesterday DOH reported seven (7) additional coronavirus cases bringing the statewide total to 706. One case has been removed from the count due to retesting as a negative case.

Hawai'i COVID-19 Counts as of 12:00 noon, June 12, 2020

Island of Diagnosis	New Cases	Reported since 2/28/2020 (including new cases)	Total Released from Isolation*
O'ahu	15	472	413
Hawai'i	0	81	81
Maui	0	118	111
Kaua'i	0	21	20
Moloka'i	0	2	2
Lana'i	0	0	0
Residents Diagnosed outside HI	0	12	
Unknown	0	0	
Total	15	706	
Total released from isolation			627
Deaths	0	17	

* Includes cases that meet isolation release criteria.

Laboratory* Testing Data

There were 2,042 additional COVID-19 tests reported via electronic laboratory reporting from Wednesday at 12:00 noon until today.

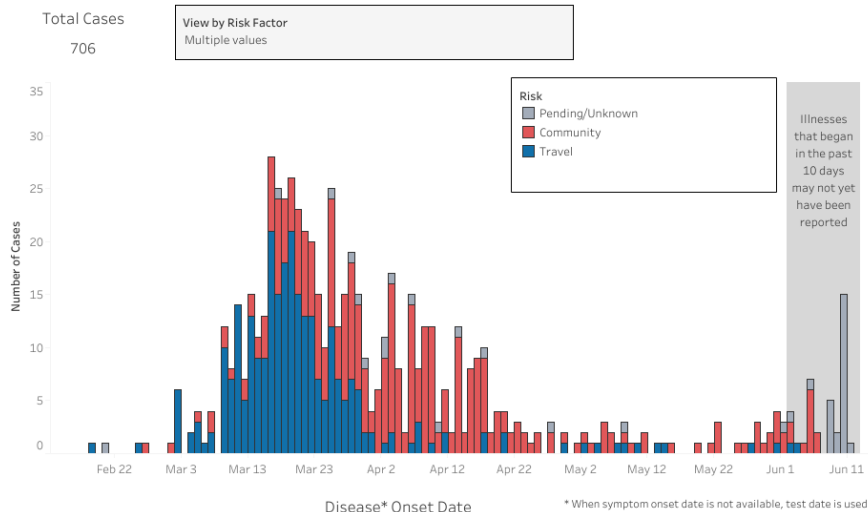
Total Number of Individuals Tested by Clinical and State Laboratories	Positive	Negative
59,338**	704	58,620

*Electronic Laboratory Reporting **14 test results were inconclusive

[Hawaii.covid19.com](https://hawaii.covid19.com)

COVID-19 Epidemic Curve, Hawaii 2020

Updated June 12, 2020



For more tables visit: <https://health.hawaii.gov/docd/>

Active Steps for Reducing Risk to Seniors in Long-Term Care

During the governor's news briefing, Dr. Bruce Anderson, director, Hawai'i Department of Health, "We've been very fortunate in Hawaii, to have prevented outbreaks in our long-term care facilities. Healthcare providers have taken many important precautions to protect seniors in their care. This has not been without a cost, as families have not been able to physically visit their loved ones and this separation to protect our kupuna has been difficult for many of us."

Anderson says skilled nursing facilities are receiving grants this month to purchase communications technology to help bridge this gap. DOH is working with long-term care facilities to ensure they have protective policies and procedures in place.

Anderson commented, "We have a team dedicated to preventing and responding to outbreaks in healthcare settings, including long-term care facilities. This team has been conducting infection control assessment and response meetings by phone since May 18 and have completed assessments on 37 facilities. We anticipate reaching all 48 skilled nursing facilities in the state by June 18. Through these meetings, we can answer facilities' questions in detail, identify and address gaps, and provide technical assistance as they refine their COVID-19 response plans." Building off this model, the team is also developing strategies to provide similar assistance and guidance to adult residential care homes and assisted living facilities, across the state.

Anderson concluded, "The department is continuing to guide and monitor care homes statewide and we are prepared and ready to investigate, control and contain any cases of COVID-19 that have not been prevented. Our long-term care facilities in Hawaii have done excellent work and continue to comply with guidance and work closely with the department when cases are identified."

Healthcare Association of Hawai'i Provides Updates

Hilton Raethel, the President and CEO of HAH highlighted the fact Hawai'i has the lowest rate of COVID-19 infection in nursing homes of any state in the nation. At today's news briefing he offered the following updates:

Employee Cases

- Discovered through employer screening
- No direct contact with residents, quickly quarantined
- Visitation shut down

Long-term Care – Federal Guidance

- Guidance is tailored for Hawai'i with low infection rates
- HAH works closely with DOH on sensible Hawai'i-centric policies

Testing and Infections

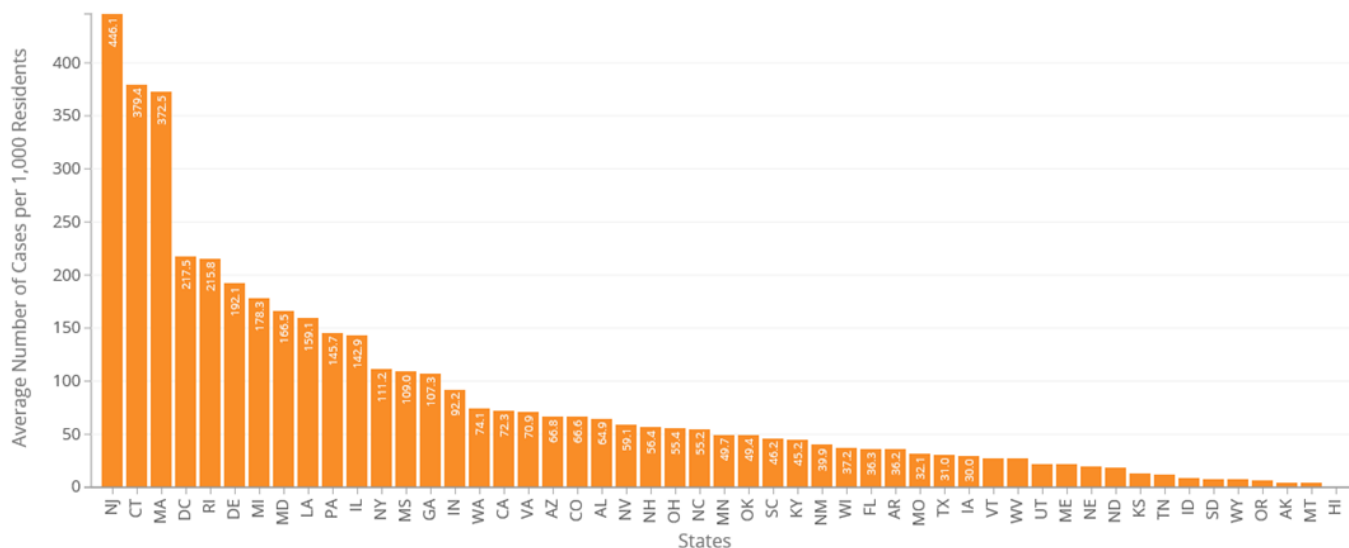
- Better positioned for testing now compared to the beginning of the pandemic
- Significant costs for healthcare organizations
- 5,000 people in long term care facilities; only one resident had COVID-19 (exposed elsewhere)

Personal Protective Equipment

- Hawai'i Healthcare Emergency Management maintains stockpiles for emergencies
- Working to secure additional PPE and medical supplies
- Want enough PPE for today and tomorrow

Raethel asked, that in order to keep the COVID-19 curve flat, people continue to practice social distancing, frequent hand washing, and mask wearing in public. He said, "You will help not just yourself, but all the people you love in these islands."

AVERAGE NUMBER OF CASES PER 1,000 RESIDENTS



Hawai'i Tourism Authority:

1,655 Passengers Arrive on Thursday

Yesterday, a total of 1,655 people arrived in Hawai'i including 568 visitors and 375 returning residents. There was a total of 19 arriving flights. This table shows the number of people who arrived by air from out of state yesterday but does not show interisland travel.

AIRPORT ARRIVALS FOR THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 2020

	KONA	MAUI	O'AHU	LĪHU'E	TOTAL
Crew	12	13	148		173
Transit		1	160		161
Military			202		202
Exempt			78		78
Relocate to Hawai'i	5	6	87		98
Returning Resident	32	36	307		375
Visitor	51	38	479		568
GRAND TOTAL	100	94	1,461	0	1,655

Flights	3	2	14	0	19
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<https://www.hawaiitourismauthority.org/media/4730/061220-passenger-count-press-release.pdf>

Department of the Attorney General:

Family Released from Quarantine Today Implores Others to Follow the Rules

The most recent announcement of two visitors and a returning resident being arrested for violating Hawai'i's quarantine rule, prompted a Sacramento visitor, near the end of a 14-day quarantine, to post on a local media website.

"We have literally been locked up in our resort room...not even a peek into the hall. We are using online services for everything; grocery shopping and ordering out and delivery. We are staying positive as we chose to come here and have to respect the law and rules for the sake of people who live here and call Hawai'i their home."

He concluded, "When we leave quarantine, the careless acts of [a] few will put many at risk, including us. I'm happy to see stories of violators getting arrested. It will warn those who are careless to think twice, as there is someone watching and there are consequences."

University of Hawai'i:

Researchers Seek COVID-19 Patients for a Clinical Trial

Researchers at the John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM), University of Hawai'i (UH) announce that they have opened the first clinical trial in Hawai'i aimed at finding an effective treatment for patients with COVID-19.

Research patients will be placed on either a placebo (sugar pill) or telmisartan, a medication commonly used for blood pressure control. "We will test the hypothesis that much of the dangerous lung and heart effects of COVID-19 is caused by the virus' ability to dysregulate the delicate balance in a hormone system in our body called the renin angiotensin system," said Dr. Cecilia Shikuma, Professor of Medicine at JABSOM and the lead investigator for this study.

"Telmisartan lowers blood pressure by blocking the harmful effects of this hormone system, and we hope to find preliminary evidence that taking the drug will also prevent much of the harmful effects of the virus." The research has UH Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval to proceed. Dr. Shikuma adds that "It is an advantage that telmisartan is already FDA approved and much of the safety concerns of this drug is already known." For study information, contact Cris Milne at 692-1335 or email cmilne@hawaii.edu

Hawai'i State Judiciary:

O'ahu District Courts Reopen

State District Courts on O'ahu reopened on Monday. Kauikoaouli Hale (Honolulu District Court on Alakea St.), Kāne'ohe District Court, 'Ewa District Court, Wahiawā District Court, and Wai'anae District Court are now open to individuals with official court business, such as court proceedings, and business with the Traffic Violations Bureau and Legal Documents Branch.

"Access to the courthouse is limited to those with official court business to ensure social distancing and protect the health and safety of our court users and staff," said Melanie May, Deputy Chief Judge, District Court of the First Circuit.

Face coverings are required. If you have a fever, cough, or other respiratory symptoms; traveled in the past 14 days; or had prolonged contact with a person who has or is suspected to have

COVID-19, you will not be allowed to enter the courthouse. Beginning June 16, the travel restriction will apply only to those who have traveled to O'ahu from out of state.

The courthouses have implemented new measures to accommodate social distancing, including staging areas and queues to promote courthouse entry in an orderly fashion. Court users are encouraged to arrive extra early to allow enough time to park and, possibly, wait in line to get in. Areas to sit or stand are clearly marked. More details at:

https://www.courts.state.hi.us/news_and_reports/2020/06/oahu-district-courts-reopen

Department of Land and Natural Resources:

Another Weekend – Another Illegal Outdoor Party on Social Media

The DLNR Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement (DOCARE) has again received reports of another party being promoted on social media at the Kāne'ohe sandbar (Ahu O Laka) for this weekend.

DOCARE Chief Jason Redulla said, "This is irresponsible and it's potentially dangerous because of COVID-19 considerations. The postings are promoting illegal activity due to the number of people they suggest may be involved. Violations of boating rules, alcohol related laws and emergency rules and orders will be enforced by DOCARE officers.

O'ahu has seen a spike in coronavirus cases the last few days and health experts say precautions, like social distancing and wearing masks while around other must continue to keep the infection curve flat. Redulla added, "Encouraging others to gather in a party like atmosphere, at a place that is limited in space, does not help the situation. It causes us to divert enforcement resources to monitor situations like these. No one should be promoting these types of activities or parties."

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