


 Newsletter

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Community Care Foster Family Home Program



Aloha CCFFH Operators,

Coronavirus (COVID-19)

CTA is distributing this information on behalf of the Office of Health Care Assurance.

This newsletter is to address concerns about the Coronavirus also known as COVID-19.

INFECTION CONTROL/STANDARD PRECAUTIONS

All providers should continue to use the infection control measures and standard precautions you should already be using. Providers should continue to strengthen their procedures, particularly as it relates to individuals with already reduced or compromised immune systems.

Should any of your residents or household members have signs and symptoms of the flu, cold or other illness that can be transmitted to others, please use isolation precautions (this is not solitary confinement). This includes moving a client, that is not infected, that is in a shared room, to a private room for the duration of the infection. If a private room is unavailable, move them as far away from each other as possible and put up screens/curtains or other barriers of protection for the client who is unaffected.



Community Ties of America, Inc. provides licensure and certification on behalf of the State of Hawaii, Office of Health Care Assurance

Our website address to find forms, information and helpful tools:

<http://comties.com/HIforms.html>

OHCA website for posted surveys

<http://health.hawaii.gov/ohca/inspection-reports/>

For more information on how the Coronavirus is spread please go to this website: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/transmission.html>

VISITORS

CTA has had several questions in regards to restricting or limiting visitors, this includes caregivers, staff, family and friends.

Here are the recommendations after reviewing state and federal information.

Having visitors is very important to the health and mental/emotional well being of your clients. Limiting visitors should be the last resort you take to safeguard your resident.

It is recommended you use the following guidelines to determine whether visitors may be allowed.

Providers should actively screen and restrict visitors who meet the following criteria and should post signs at the entrances:

1. Signs or symptoms of a respiratory infection, such as a fever, cough, shortness of breath, or sore throat.
2. In the last 14 days, has had contact with someone with a confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19, or under investigation for COVID-19, or are ill with respiratory illness.
3. International travel within the last 14 days to countries with sustained community transmission: For updated information on affected countries

visit: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html>

Restricting visitors would mean the individual should not be allowed in the facility at all, until

they no longer meet the criteria listed above.

SIGNAGE

Posted signs could simply say

STOP: People with fever, cough, sore throat or other flu-like symptoms are not permitted to visit.

People who have traveled to a high-risk area for COVID-19 are not permitted to visit.

Visitors will be asked to wash hands with soap and water or use an alcohol-based hand rub before and after your visit.

Visitors will need to cover their sneezes and coughs with their elbow or a tissue.

If any changes to these visitation recommendations are made you will be notified.

The DOH website advises the following:

Preventing the spread of misinformation and disease

The Department of Health is committed to sharing information as it becomes available.

People are urged not to spread misinformation or inaccurate statements that are not confirmed, and keep updated and informed on the situation. Everyone can help prevent the spread of respiratory illness with these everyday actions.

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.

- CDC does not recommend that people who are well wear a facemask to protect themselves from illnesses, including COVID-19. Keep in mind that supplies are limited and we need to make sure there are enough masks for our front-line health care workers. If you are sick then wear a mask to protect the people around you.
- Prepare for the possibility that people may want to stay home or may be asked to stay home to prevent the spread of illness.
 - ◦ If you have daily medication needs, have more than a week's supply on hand and have as much on hand as your insurance will allow you to have.
 - ◦ Not everyone can afford to stock up on supplies or has the space to store them, but anything you can arrange in advance means one less inconvenience or one less trip to the store while you are sick.
 - ◦ Make family plans for the possibility of school or day care closures. Do some contingency planning in advance at the family level.
- Sign up for public notifications

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

CTA encourages providers to check the HI DOH website periodically, along with the CMS and CDC website.

CDC website:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/>

CMS website: <https://www.cms.gov/About-CMS/Agency-Information/Emergency/EPRO/Current-Emergencies/Current-Emergencies-page>

HI DOH Site Link:

<https://health.hawaii.gov/news/covid-19->

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Mahalo,

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