

# Newsletter #103 August 15, 2021

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## Licensed and Certified Facilities

Aloha,

*CTA is distributing this information which is approved by the Office of Health Care Assurance. It is being distributed to all CCFFHs and CMAs.*

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII




ELIZABETH A. CHAR, M.D.  
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**  
OFFICE OF HEALTH CARE ASSURANCE  
601 KAMOKILA BOULEVARD, ROOM 361  
KAPOLEI, HAWAII 96707

In reply, please refer to:  
File:

August 12, 2021

**To:** Administrators of Licensed or Certified Health Care Facilities

**From:** Keith R. Ridley   
Chief, Office of Health Care Assurance

**Subject:** **PARTNERING TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF COVID-19**

Dear Administrator:

With the recent increase in COVID-19 cases and virus variants, it is imperative for all of us to partner to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and to keep our kupuna safe. The Department of Health and OHCA have issued guidance and will continue to monitor licensees and certificate holders by conducting required unannounced inspections and visits to ensure compliance with infection control requirements.

We also wanted to take the opportunity to let you know what the state and OHCA are doing to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Universal precautions were practiced from the beginning of the pandemic to include proper masking, maintaining physical distances, frequent hand hygiene, self-monitoring for COVID-19 symptoms, and use of personal protective equipment (PPE). Surveyors and consultants were fit-tested with N-95 masks to improve protection. And when vaccines became available, the majority of OHCA's surveyor and consultant staff were vaccinated to maximize protection while continuing to follow universal precautions.

More recently, the Governor issued executive orders to require state employees to be vaccinated or undergo weekly testing. Thankfully, the majority of OHCA staff have been vaccinated and we hope the remaining staff will be vaccinated, too. For those who choose to not vaccinate, they will be required to have weekly COVID-19 tests before being allowed to work in the office or on survey. All staff are also reminded to self-monitor for known symptoms and to not come to work if symptoms present, and to remain vigilant by practicing universal precautions.

OHCA takes this responsibility seriously and are doing all we can to ensure our employees remain safe for each other and for our licensees and residents of licensed or certified facilities.

Mahalo for all you do to ensure our kupuna remain safe.