



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**ILIMA INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL**  
**KA 'OIHANA HO'ONA'AUAO**  
91-884 FORT WEAVER ROAD  
EWA BEACH, HI 96706

July 3, 2024

Dear Ilima Intermediate School Community,

We are asking for support from our families in taking extra precaution to help keep our school safe. The Department of Health (DOH) recently updated its guidance regarding COVID-19. DOH'S updated guidance categorized COVID-19 as a respiratory virus. Students and staff are reminded to stay home if experiencing symptoms of a respiratory virus until **fever-free for 24 hours after the fever ends, without fever-reducing medication, and the individual's symptoms are improving.**

What is different?

- COVID-19 is now grouped under the category of respiratory viruses, such as influenza or the seasonal flu virus.
- Students and staff who are positive for COVID-19 are no longer required to isolate or quarantine for any specific time.
- Students and staff must stay home until fever free **for 24 hours after the fever ends**, without fever-reducing medications and symptoms are getting better if symptoms exist.
- Each individual's timeline for return will vary depending on when their symptoms improve (<https://go.hidoe.us/DOH-Respiratory-Virus-Guidance>). Refer to pages 2 to 4 for examples.
- Once students or staff return to school following an episode of a respiratory illness, the DOH is recommending they take added precautions for a **five-day period**. Added precautions include:
  - Avoiding contact with people with compromised immune systems.
  - Masking.
  - Increasing the frequency of hygiene practices to include hand washing.
  - Monitoring possible symptoms and potentially testing if symptoms start or return.

Suggested routine precautions and strategies for our community:

- Get immunized and stay up to date against vaccine-preventable illnesses, including seasonal flu and COVID-19.
- Consult with your health care provider regarding testing and treatment options promptly when symptoms first appear.
- Wear a mask for your own protection.
- Practice good hand hygiene and cover your cough with your arm or a mask.

Updates will be provided as they are shared with administration. Mahalo for your support by doing your part in taking these extra precautions.

Sincerely,

Shayne Greenland - Principal