

This is a message from your County Civil Defense to all the people of Hawaii Island.

This is about the coronavirus (COVID-19). Our community must come together and take action to prevent its potential spread. We may not be able to stop the virus from getting to Hawaii Island, but with your help we will minimize its impact on families and our community.

The County of Hawaii is fully committed to working with State, Federal and private partners. Your County has activated task forces to provide coordinated medical responses, educational and prevention programs. These task forces stand ready to help you. As community partners, you can make a positive difference right now by staying informed, following health advisories and taking action to protect yourselves, your family and your community.

Understand that most people who get the virus will not even know they have it, so we must be smart as we go about our everyday activities. Simple things like washing hands, disinfecting counters, and greeting friends with a wave instead of a handshake or a hug can really make a big difference.

Additionally, ALL gatherings should be evaluated on two issues:

- First, should it be held?
- Secondly, if it is to be held, under what conditions and what measures can be taken to minimize risk to people?

Your County government is now evaluating all activities under its authority.

At this time, there is a shortage of sanitation and cleaning products. This is due partly to hoarding and panic buying. Please be considerate of others, and do not hoard.

There is no shortage of food, and there will not be a shortage of food on the Island due to interrupted shipments. The Department of Transportation – Harbors and Matson report that cargo shipping between the West Coast and interisland are operating as normal. That will not change.

This is a Community issue, and it will take Community Involvement. And that's the key – YOU can make the difference.

Thank you for your help, thank you for caring, and thank you for listening. This is your Hawaii County government.

*For more information, call Civil Defense at 935-0031. The hours are 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., seven days a week.*