



September 3, 2021

Dear Employees, Residents, Families and Responsible Parties;

Reference: Update on Aloha Nursing Rehab Centre's COVID-19 outbreak.

We are working closely with Hawaii Department of Health, Disease Control Outbreak Division (DOCD). With the assistance from DOH we have concluded the internal contact tracing and have determined that the exposure is linked to a direct care worker.

Since the August 24<sup>th</sup> outbreak we have completed multiple rounds of interval COVID-19 testing. Which consisted of rapid antigen testing and PCR testing of residents and employees. Through this continued COVID testing we have identified additional residents and one employee test positive for COVID-19. The new cases are directly connected to the August 24<sup>th</sup> outbreak.

Currently a total of fourteen residents and one employee has tested positive for COVID. Our Medical Director, Dr. Frank Lemes has been instrumental in his quick action in prescribing monoclonal antibody therapy (Regen-COV) for resident in the affected wing. Monoclonal antibody therapy is safe for those who have been exposed to COVID, are experiencing symptoms of COVID, and who have tested positive for COVID. To date we have administered Regen-COV to twelve residents. We will be reaching out to resident responsible parties for consent to treat all residents in the Yellow Zone. In our observation of residents who have received Regen-Cov, they have responded favorably well. They have either remained symptom free or have experienced very mild symptoms. Residents in the Red Zone are recovering and doing well.

We have created cohorting zones on the affected 2<sup>nd</sup> floor wing. Zones consist of:

- **Red Zone**- resident who have tested positive for COVID-19
- **Yellow Zone**- residents who are being monitored closely for symptom development due to exposure
- **Green Zone**- residents who have had no exposure and are symptom free. Green Zone locations: entire 1<sup>st</sup> floor and one 2<sup>nd</sup> floor wing.

The affected 2<sup>nd</sup> floor wing continues to be under quarantine, in the wing:

- All residents are on droplet precautions.
- All employees wear PPE that includes N95 masks, face shields, gowns and gloves.
- All meals are being served using disposable trays, plates, bowls and utensils.
- Employees are following infection control and prevention practices.
- The Red Zone employees have a dedicated entrance & exit.

Employees working in the Green Zones wear PPE that include N95, face shield and follow infection control and prevention practices.

As a reminder resident, responsible parties, family emergency contacts and staff will be contacted directly if there has been a direct exposure.

Communication is key to our success. In addition to the letters we post on our website we believe that direct verbal contact with families, responsible parties, and emergency contacts is essential. Our admissions team (Tammy and Momi) have agreed to reach out to each resident responsible parties and emergency contacts with updates at least weekly until we get through this outbreak. For residents who are currently residing in the Red Zone, our nursing team will communicate directly with residents' responsible parties and emergency contacts.

In-person visitations continue to be temporarily suspended, we will have more information and direction after our next round of testing which is scheduled for the beginning of next week. We will provide an update as soon as all test results become available and after we receive direction from DOH. We encourage families to remain in contact with loved ones virtually. We offer various ways for family members to stay connected with their loved ones through video chat, calling, texting, or other forms of social media formats, we are here to help make it happen. Please contact **Therapeutic Recreation (activities department)**, at **(808) 441-9553** to schedule telephone calls and virtual sessions via FaceTime, Duo or Zoom.

COVID-19 pandemic is uncharted territory and is proving to be a challenging time for everyone, please know that we are adhering to the directions and recommendation of the State of Hawaii Department of Health (DOH), Centers for Medicare & Medicaid (CMS) and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

We will provide ongoing updates as they become available. We will continue to practice safe infection prevention and control measures such as hand hygiene, use of personal protective equipment and physical distancing. We encourage employees to be conscientious and take the necessary safety precautions when out in the community.

We continue to encourage residents, employees and visitors to get vaccinated. We now know that the COVID vaccinations does not prevent a person from contracting, experiencing symptoms and spreading the virus. The benefits of receiving COVID vaccinations has proven to prevent severe illness, hospitalization, and death. If you or your loved one is not vaccinated, please reconsider getting vaccinated. We are receiving questions regarding the 3<sup>rd</sup> dose of the COVID vaccination (booster shot). Yes, we will be offering the 3<sup>rd</sup> dose of the vaccine to residents and employees. We are working with our pharmacy (Pharmacare). We will notify residents, responsible parties and employees as soon as vaccination clinic dates and times are confirmed.

Vaccination rate for the facility: 97% of residents are vaccinated and 80% of employees are vaccinated

We will get through this together.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at (808) 247-2220. You may also visit our website at [www.alohanursing.com](http://www.alohanursing.com) for regular updates.

Sincerely,  
Vanessa Bruns,  
Quality and Compliance Officer

*OUR MISSION IS TO OFFER YOU PEACE OF MIND*