



September 1, 2021

Friends and Families of Aloha Nursing and Rehab Centre,

I wanted to reach out to you all to give you an update during this difficult time in our community and at our facility. I hope you are all doing well and are staying safe and healthy.

The staff at Aloha Nursing and Rehab Centre have worked tirelessly for the past year and a half to do everything possible to keep COVID away from your loved ones, but unfortunately during this surge in cases in our community due to the Delta variant, we have been affected as well. As many of you know, several of our Kupuna have recently tested positive for COVID. We have done our best contact tracing to determine how they were exposed, but often in these cases it is not completely clear. We have tested all residents and staff on several occasions and created a wing to isolate the residents who tested positive and another area to isolate those who were close contacts of them.

Due to our amazing 98% vaccination rate among our residents, our residents who did test positive are all doing great. Most have no symptoms whatsoever and the ones that do are quite mild at this time. That certainly was not the case among nursing home residents in the pre-vaccine days of the pandemic. Another advancement that we have access to is the use of monoclonal antibody treatments. Immediately upon getting the test results, I contacted the one nursing home pharmacy on the island that had a stock of the monoclonal antibody treatment, Regeneron, and obtained that treatment for our residents. This is a very safe treatment which reduces the risk of hospitalization from 9% to 3% in patients who are at risk due to age and chronic medical problems. While many other nursing homes have had multiple residents test positive for COVID, I am told we are the first to offer this treatment on such a widespread basis.

It has been humbling and heartwarming to watch our staff members and administration pull together to care for our loved Kupuna during this time. I want to extend my appreciation to our Assistant DON Irvin and our DON Germaine for their help in getting the Regeneron treatments to our residents, and to our quality & compliance officer Vanessa Bruns for her work in partnering with the department of health to ensure all appropriate protocols are in place to ensure the safety of our residents during this time.

In closing I would like to urge all of you to do your part to join us in this fight against COVID in our community. If you are not vaccinated, please get vaccinated as soon as possible. While it is well known that one can test positive for COVID if they are vaccinated, they have a much lower, (27 times lower) risk of becoming hospitalized and extremely low chance of dying. The longer that this current variant is allowed to circulate in our community, the greater the chance is of the development of another variant that might be even worse. The quicker we can slow transmission through vaccination, the quicker we can get back to normal and we can welcome you back into our facility with open arms.

With my warmest Aloha,
Frank Lemes, M.D., C.M.D.
Medical Director of Aloha Nursing Rehab Centre

OUR MISSION IS TO OFFER YOU PEACE OF MIND