



Vaccinating Pharmacists are HIC Board Members – Bringing Hope and Protection to Hawaii’s populations

It is more than a year into a pandemic due to a coronavirus that causes severe acute respiratory distress and has been circulating worldwide. The disease caused by the virus has been named COVID-19 (COroNVIrusDIsease-2019) while the virus itself is called SARS-CoV-2.

Some countries, like the United States, have been slow to adapt to the measures needed to stem the spread. Among the biggest shocks was that the U.S. fared worse than most other countries, with more than 30 million cases and nearly 554,000 deaths as of this writing. The tireless efforts of health care workers, along with an unprecedented vaccine push, have saved countless others.

Some of those giving life to our community are **David Cao** and **Mia Tran**, both HIC board directors and both pharmacists. Sometimes their days are long – like 11 hours! – while they provide Covid-19 vaccinations at Times Pharmacies, Point of Dispensing Sites (PODS), long-term care facilities, and foster and retirement homes. To date, the team from Times Pharmacy has provided more than 7,000 first doses of covid 19 vaccine into arms. All vaccinations follow Hawaii State Dept of Health/CDC guidelines as to who is eligible to receive the vaccine.

The goal is to get a large enough portion of the population in the state to achieve herd immunity. State officials say about 70% of Hawaii residents will need to get vaccinated against COVID-19 to greatly reduce the likelihood that even those who are not vaccinated will catch it.

If you or someone you know wants to register for a vaccine, go to <https://hawaii-covid19.com/vaccination-registration/>



Education Committee

On January 27, the Education Committee hosted the "Hawaii COVID-19 Vaccination Update" webinar with Dr. **Sandra Chang**, Dr. **Lee Buenconsejo-Lum** and **Marilyn Sandvig** as speakers. Our sponsor, Hawaii Pacific Health, provided continuing education credits. The webinar was available for continued viewing and credit until February 27, 2021.

We continue to update our resource page: [COVID-19 Resources | immunizehawaii.org](https://immunizehawaii.org). Be on the lookout for our next webinar:

Building Community Trust to Increase COVID-19 Vaccination
Wednesday, May 26 @ 12:00-1:00 PM

Objectives: (1) Identify barriers to building community trust in COVID-19 vaccination. (2) Incorporate evidenced-based research and talking points with patients to increase community trust in obtaining COVID-19 vaccinations. (3) Describe ways to reach out to Hawaii’s at-risk populations to promote vaccination.

Speakers: **May Rose Dela Cruz**, DrPh; **Alan Katz**, MD, MPH; **Chris “CJ” Johnson**, Program Specialist at HDOH

Vaccinate Your Family has put up a special page on our Partner Portal with talking points, news articles, and legislation trackers: <https://vyfadvocacy.org/covid-resources/covid-19-vaccine-mandates/>

Legislative Committee

It’s been a noticeably quiet legislative session this year, in which testimony is generally submitted online and hearings are virtual via Zoom. The 2021 legislative year in Hawaii began on January 20 and is set to adjourn on April 29, 2021. The Hawaii Immunization Coalition works with partners to support legislation that furthers immunization strategies.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has released **Interim Public Health Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated People in the US** (as of April 27, 2021). Read the complete current report <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/participate-in-activities.html>

Choosing Safer Activities

If you are fully vaccinated, you can start doing many things that you had stopped doing because of the pandemic.

When choosing safer activities, consider [how COVID-19 is spreading in your community](#), the number of people participating in the activity, and the location of the activity.

Outdoor visits and activities are safer than indoor activities, and fully vaccinated people can participate in some indoor events safely, without much risk.

If you haven’t been vaccinated yet, [find a vaccine](#).

Have You Been Fully Vaccinated?

People are considered fully vaccinated:

- 2 weeks after their second dose in a 2-dose series, such as the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines, or
- 2 weeks after a single-dose vaccine, such as Johnson & Johnson’s Janssen vaccine

If you don’t meet these requirements, you are NOT fully vaccinated. Keep taking all [precautions](#) until you are fully vaccinated.

Choosing Safer Activities

	Unvaccinated People	Your Activity	Fully Vaccinated People
		Outdoor	
Safest		Walk, run, roll, or bike outdoors with members of your household	
		Attend a small, outdoor gathering with fully vaccinated family and friends	
		Attend a small, outdoor gathering with fully vaccinated and unvaccinated people	
Less Safe		Dine at an outdoor restaurant with friends from multiple households	
		Attend a crowded, outdoor event, like a live performance, parade, or sports event	
		Indoor	
Less Safe		Visit a barber or hair salon	
		Go to an uncrowded, indoor shopping center or museum	
		Ride public transport with limited occupancy	
Least Safe		Attend a small, indoor gathering of fully vaccinated and unvaccinated people from multiple households	
		Go to an indoor movie theater	
		Attend a full-capacity worship service	
		Sing in an indoor chorus	
		Eat at an indoor restaurant or bar	
		Participate in an indoor, high intensity exercise class	

Get a COVID-19 vaccine

- Prevention measures not needed
- Take prevention measures
- Fully vaccinated people: wear a mask
- Unvaccinated people: wear a mask, stay 6 feet apart, and wash your hands.
- Safety levels assume the recommended prevention measures are followed, both by the individual and the venue (if applicable).
- CDC cannot provide the specific risk level for every activity in every community. It is important to consider your own personal situation and the risk to you, your family, and your community before venturing out.

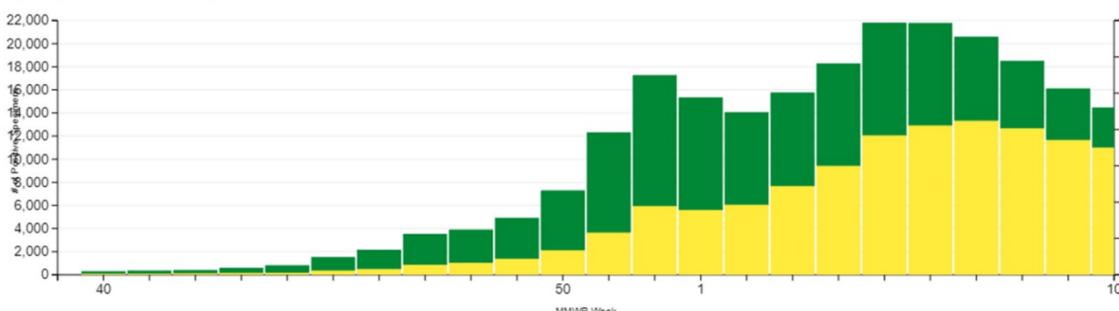
2020-2021 Flu Season Winds Down with a Sharp Decline in Reported Cases

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the number of laboratory-detected influenza cases has fallen dramatically. Experts believe that public health measures used to reduce transmission of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19 disease – washing hands, wearing masks, and watching distance – have also played a part in blocking the spread of other respiratory illnesses including the flu. Another factor may have been the larger percentage of the US population that got vaccinated or intended to get vaccinated against influenza this season – 59% according to a CDC survey in September 2020 (<https://www.cdc.gov/flu/fluview/nifs-estimates-sept2020.htm>).

Even as the recent flu season has wound down, the Food and Drug Administration’s Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee approved influenza strains to be included in vaccines for the 2021-2022 flu season. Stay tuned for those developments.

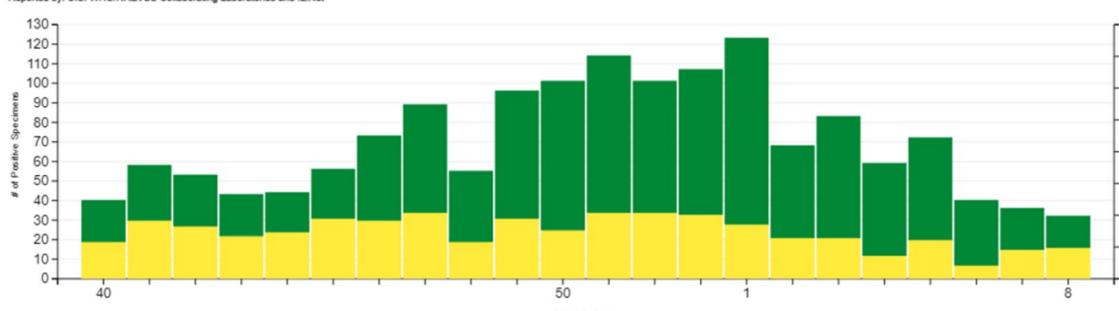
Influenza Positive Tests Reported to CDC by Clinical Laboratories, National Summary, 2019-20 Season, week ending Sep 26, 2020

Reported by: U.S. WHO/NREVSS Collaborating Laboratories and ILINet



Influenza Positive Tests Reported to CDC by Clinical Laboratories, National Summary, 2020-21 Season, week ending Feb 27, 2021

Reported by: U.S. WHO/NREVSS Collaborating Laboratories and ILINet



Figures from CDC FluView showing the number of cases of influenza A (yellow) and influenza B (green) reported by clinical laboratories during the 2019-2020 (top) and 2020-2021 (bottom) flu seasons. Note the difference in scale on the left axes.