



# PEARL HARBOR CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

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August 9, 2020

Aloha PHCA Ohana,

Last Friday, Governor Ige announced the most recent plan for **public** schools reopening. The headlines read that they will be going 100% Distant Learning (DL). However, from August 17<sup>th</sup>- 20<sup>th</sup>, students on Oahu will be scheduled to physically return to school to allow time to "connect" with their teachers. On August 24<sup>th</sup>, they will go to a DL platform for FOUR WEEKS while the DOE assesses when students can safely return to school. Neighbor islands **public** schools will continue with their original in-person/blended plans for reopening. No mandates or recommendations were made for **private** schools.

The latest guidance from the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) is still that children learn best and benefit most by being in school - keeping in mind that safety protocols must be in place. "*The AAP guidance is based on what pediatricians and infectious disease specialists know about COVID-19 and kids*" (July 14, 2020)<sup>1</sup>. Our school board continually assesses PHCA's situation on when and if we need to move to a DL platform. Even as the DOE launches DL, they realize the importance of "connecting" with students first. We will continue to "connect" and take advantage of the best possible, in-school learning environment with our students until DL is the only option to keep our keiki safe.

With the rising number of cases we are seeing, we are implementing a "Face Shield & Face Mask" protocol in the classroom. All students have already been provided with Face Shields by the school. Students in Kindergarten and up will start practicing and be required to put on their Face Shield in addition to their masks anytime they are moving about in the classroom or for any activity the teacher deems necessary. Keep in mind that the situation with COVID-19 is still very fluid and we all need to be flexible as protocols change and diligent in following what is deemed necessary by our board.

Please see the attachments which describe the procedural flow chart for an individual who is a "Positive Case" or has been in "Close Contact" with COVID-19. By the grace of God, we have not had any positive cases here at PHCA and as a reminder, the best way to fight the spread of COVID-19 must be a vigilant community effort in practicing the following:

- 1) *Stay home - away from PHCA and others if you're sick or have any symptoms related to COVID-19,*
- 2) *Stay "friendly at a distance" - Maintain social distancing and only one parent on campus if needed*
- 3) *Wear a face mask coming on to or leaving campus, students keep masks/shields on when moving about in class*
- 4) *Wash hands frequently - when soap & water not available, use a sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol content*
- 5) *If your child is sick or has symptoms at school, please be prepared to pick them up right away.*

Remember, it is everyone's responsibility to quarantine themselves if they have been in close contact with a positive case. Also, PHCA must be informed if you or anyone in your household tests positive for COVID-19. For positive cases, the Department of Health will provide further guidance on how the case should be handled and the names of all persons reported are required to remain confidential.

Sincerely in Christ,



**PHEBE SUMIDA, M.Ed.**

Head Administrator

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<sup>1</sup> Healthychildren.org, "Return to School During COVID-19", July 14, 2020