

As we were not able to answer all your questions during the webinar, we have compiled responses to all unanswered questions. If you have any further questions, comments, or concerns, please email Covid19bulletin@hawaiipacifichealth.org.

TREATMENT:

- **Q:** Is there any ability to participate in IL6 inhibitor trials?
- **A: [Dr. Doug Kwock]:** We are constantly searching for and reviewing clinical trial opportunities to participate in. Specific to IL-6 inhibitors, we submitted for participation in a clinical trial of Kevzara (sarilumab). Unfortunately, we were not selected as a study site.
- **Q:** Is there any information on use of Ivermectin?
- **A: [Dr. Doug Kwock]:** Ivermectin is currently not recommended for the prophylaxis or treatment of COVID-19. Its utility in the treatment of COVID-19 is being studied. More information should be forthcoming.

PPE:

- **Q:** For the HEPA filter with the 3D printed masks, are there concerns about small particles (fiberglass/carbon) being potentially inhaled and harmful?
- **A: [Dr. Melinda Ashton]:** That has been reported as a potential issue in some of the filter material some people are using. I am unaware if this is a potential problem with the material our team has used, but I am not aware that we have used any of them yet and so we can investigate this before we try them out.

TELEHEALTH (IT):

- **Q:** How do we send questionnaires (i.e., phq9/gad7) for patients to complete prior to telehealth visits?
- **A: [Dr. James Lin]:** Currently, we do not have them built to send via MyChart. There has been concerns in the past on ensuring adequate response to positive depression screens.

TESTING:

- **Q:** If a patient is scheduled for outpatient imaging (e.g., neck ultrasound), would they also be required to have a pre-visit COVID-19 test 2-3 days prior?
- **A: [Dr. Gerard Livaudais]:** No, not unless they have other indications for testing. Outpatient imaging is not a high risk (e.g. aerosolizing) procedure and there's no expected prolonged exposure to healthcare workers or other patients.

OTHER:

- **Q:** Wouldn't it be a good idea to test intimate contacts of people on Kauai who test positive? Currently, this is not being done. Close contacts are instead being told to quarantine for 14 days. It seems with low numbers and limited people traveling in to the Island, this could be very effective.
- **A: [Dr. Melinda Ashton]:** Testing asymptomatic contacts does not guarantee that you will find all who will become ill. You might test today and get a negative and still have someone convert to positive in a day or two and unless you do repeated tests, the only safe option is quarantine until the 14 days from last contact with a positive person (or 14 days after that person is cleared) are completed.
- **Q:** How do we avoid a situation like what happened with Maui Memorial?
- **A: [Dr. Melinda Ashton]:** We do what we have done which is create standards for PPE use, provide the PPE and monitor use. Also test concerning patients and monitor the contacts of those who test positive.
- **Q:** With recent reports that COVID-19 has been circulating in San Francisco since December 2019, is there any studies looking to see if was circulating in Hawaii since that time?
- **A: [Dr. Melinda Ashton]:** I am unaware of these reports, but our testing did not show community spread until several weeks in to the pandemic here. I think we would have found positive members of the community from the beginning if there was circulation.