

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.

HPH:

- Q: Do we continue to have hand sanitizer in the hospital?
- A: We do have supply, although some has a distinct odor of liquor, which may not be pleasant.
- Q: Should we consider stopping the all patient screening and just stick to the elective procedures where the patients will be helped?
- A: This is something that we wrestle with. At this time we have adequate testing capacity to continue with the current practices.

PPE:

- Q: Can we preserve PPE use through our pop-up testing sites?
- A: Consolidating testing at our drive-up specimen collection and REC sites have definitely allowed us to use less PPE as a system.
- Q: I wear a hospital mask during work and change it to community mask to go home. Should I continue with the same goggles? I'm a bit hesitant to take things home from the hospital.
- A: Eye protection has become a confusing topic. You need eye protection when you can't ensure physical distancing (perhaps if you congregate at a parking elevator as you leave work). You don't have to use medical grade goggles, any eye protection that fits closely across your brow and wraps around the sides to cover the eyes is fine.
- Q: We are waiting on the anti-fog spray for the face shields given to us which unfortunately tend to fog up to the point where I am unable to see the patient at the end of the visit. In case the spray doesn't work, are we allowed to buy our own face shields for work at HPH or are there other options?
- A: You may purchase your own as long as they meet the requirements for medical face shields. Before you do that, check in with your manager or command center as we should have several options that may work better. It is not reasonable that you be asked to work in a face shield that doesn't allow you to do your job.

OTHER:

- Q: If someone had direct, prolonged contact with COVID-19 positive person (drinking together for hours), but asymptomatic and PCR negative on day 3, how long do they self-isolate and does their entire household self-isolate during that time if asymptomatic?
- A: A negative test on day 3 is helpful, but not adequate. The usual illness symptoms appear between 5-7 days, but can occur as late as 9 days. The negative test result may just reflect lack of viral replication at the time, not absence of infection. We have a set of algorithms to help in the decisions re quarantine. <https://intranet.hph.local/Documents/HomePage/Covid19/alg/rtw.pdf>

TESTING:

- Q: Can we manufacture our own reagents? How about recruiting the AP chemistry classes at schools?
- A: Unfortunately, laboratory medicine is a highly regulated enterprise by both accreditation and federal entities. The manufacture of reagents for any laboratory testing involving patients has high levels of oversight to maintain quality and safety. Any deviation from the test manufacturer instructions and reagents would be considered unauthorized use. Also, this kind of testing is not interchangeable with other non-vendor reagents, preventing the modular swapping of such components. Appreciate the out-of-the-box thinking.