



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

September 22, 2021

TO: Complex Area Superintendents
Principals (All)

FROM: Keith T. Hayashi 
Interim Superintendent

SUBJECT: **Conducting Extracurricular and Co-Curricular Activities/Travel for School Year 2021-2022**

This memorandum provides the Hawaii State Department of Education (HIDOE) complex areas and schools an overview of the key decisions needed to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on extracurricular and co-curricular activities.

Participation in Extracurricular and Co-Curricular Activities

This guidance applies to intra-school activities and does not supersede the Athletic Guidelines. It is imperative that schools assess the risk level of the activities sponsored and adjust accordingly.

Any activity during or beyond the school day in which participation is directly tied to earning a grade for matriculation into the next grade level or advances credit for graduation is excluded from this guidance.

Participation in extracurricular and co-curricular activities is considered voluntary and a privilege - not a right - and can be denied for legitimate reasons. Prioritizing in-person learning in schools is a legitimate reason; therefore, the health and safety safeguards for COVID-19 must be followed in planning and implementing these events and programs.

Students enrolled in school or complex area administered distance learning may participate in extracurricular and co-curricular activities. Participation will be subject to the principal's discretion and will be dependent on the purpose distance learning was granted for the student. This does not apply to the State distance learning program per the parent agreement.

For within-school intramural athletics, the school will comply with the Department of Health guidelines for schools and the HIDOE health and safety guidance. For any extramural athletic activities between schools, schools must adhere to the HIDOE COVID-19 Guidance for Athletics.

Should a school temporarily convert to full distance learning, all extracurricular and co-curricular activities will cease for the duration of full distance learning unless a virtual solution can be offered.

Vaccination and COVID Testing Requirements

For high-risk activities, activities in which participants will have prolonged contact with others and/or the application of the core essential strategies of masking and hand hygiene will be limited, proof of vaccinations will be required for all participants. Adults and students who have approved vaccination exemptions or are not eligible for vaccinations (i.e., students under the age for which the vaccine has been approved) will be subject to COVID testing prior to engaging in the activity. A negative COVID test result administered within 48 hours prior to the activity must be submitted to participate. Proof of vaccination and COVID test results will be collected by the school designee of the activity.

Health and Safety Plan for Extracurricular and Co-Curricular Programs

All extracurricular and co-curricular programs must adhere to current HIDOE, state Department of Health, and local county health and safety guidance. For activities involving students under the age for which the vaccine has been approved, the core essential strategies will be required and the layering of additional mitigation strategies will be added as appropriate. Activity or program leaders will submit a health and safety plan including any adjustments to the activities or programs necessary to mitigate the spread of COVID to their supervising administrator for approval and to share with parents and students. A sample health and safety plan template is attached.

Travel

Activities that require travel will follow the school transportation guidelines for ground transportation.

All interisland and out-of-state travel must follow the county guidelines as well as Safe Travels requirements. When traveling interisland, the school must consider all travel routines including the current advisories for safe travels, overnight stays, possible quarantine at destination if exposed to COVID, and adult supervision at all times.

At this time, no out-of-state travel will be approved if any student or adult in the traveling group is not fully vaccinated.

Any individual who is not fully vaccinated must receive approval from the school principal and Complex Area Superintendent to travel via ground transportation or interisland. Protocols must be in place to assess the individual is healthy, safe to travel with the team, and can meet the learning expectations if there is a need to quarantine.

Use of Facilities for Exhibitions, Performances, and Competitions

School facilities are used for multiple purposes aligned with instructional programs and school operations. It is difficult to determine universal guidance for all venues. The size of the events will be determined by the venue capacity and the ability to apply the core essential strategies with the layering of additional mitigation strategies safely. Adherence to the current state Department of Health and local county guidance is mandated. Therefore, the number in the audience and seating will be determined by the host school, not to exceed 50% capacity of the venue and limiting groups to 10 individuals indoors and 25 individuals outdoors with at least six feet of distance between groups. Spectators will be required to show a picture identification and either proof of vaccination or a negative test for COVID administered within 48 hours prior to the event. If the presence of young audience members who are not eligible for vaccinations is probable, the entire audience may be required to wear masks to protect each other.

Failure to comply with the HDOE, state Department of Health, and local county guidance may result in the suspension of extracurricular and co-curricular activities.

Thank you for all that you are doing to ensure the health and safety of our students, staff, and school communities. It is comforting to know that during this time of uncertainty, your diligence and care have been steadfast.

KTH:pu
Attachment

c: Deputy Superintendent
Assistant Superintendents