



# HONPA HONGWANJI MISSION OF HAWAII

STATE HEADQUARTERS

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**As the State of Hawaii has recently (March 10<sup>th</sup>) received more COVID-19 Testing Kits, in the next few days, we will probably know how widespread or not the Coronavirus is in Hawaii. If the need arises, HQ will issue directives to all temples and entities of Hawaii Kyodan. However, for now, some suggestions to consider for possible implementation and action are:**

- Be diligent, observant, careful, thoughtful, considerate and do not panic,
- If you are experiencing flu-like symptoms or think your immune system is weak, refrain from attending services, meetings and other gatherings for your own and the safety of others,
- Encourage frequent hand washing and other sanitization measures,
- Making soap and water and/or hand sanitizers readily available at temple for people to use,
- In addition to the regular usual “hosha” cleaning, disinfecting of heavily trafficked or touched areas of facilities like door knobs, handrails, incense containers (by ministers), and similar areas,
- Some temples provided nenju for common use, for noq, perhaps discontinue this courtesy,
- Instead of hand-shaking and hugging, as a greeting, encourage bowing by offering a bow to others,
- If it is possible consider having gatherings and maybe even services not within a totally enclosed area, but in an environment with fresh air circulating (at this time comfort may not be the primary concern),
- If given the option, participate in meetings, workshops and seminars using audio-visual conferencing (as opposed to traveling to host site via planes),
- If an event, especially if it is a large event, can be postponed (not canceled), you might consider it,
- Temples with schools including preschools and Japanese schools and elder care programs in which larger numbers of people are present should be extra diligent,
- Keep yourselves informed by following government and medical advisories and guidelines,
- Please keep track of Travel Advisories like for LEVEL 3: China, South Korea, Italy and Iran-All non-essential travel to these countries should be avoided.

If extraordinary circumstances require you to travel to these countries, you must notify prior to leaving and upon your return. You will be expected to observe a minimum 14-day self-quarantine period and be seen by a physician. If you are experiencing flu-like symptoms upon your return, you may be required to undergo a mandatory quarantine by state health officials, LEVEL 2: Japan-All non-essential travel to LEVEL 2 countries should be considered. If traveling to these countries, you should exercise caution, and LEVEL 1-U.S. Mainland/Level 1 Countries-There are currently no restrictions for travel to the U.S. Mainland or Level 1 countries. All Travelers should monitor the CDC website for up-to-date information,

- The importance of good, honest, respectful communication between all who utilize or visit temple facilities,
- Remind people that there are many ways to “hear or listen” to the Dharma which includes social media including website postings and reading books. HQ is looking at creating YouTube videos or similar for viewing and temples can consider ways too,
- Go to the Buddha, Dharma and Sangha for guidance!

**This is by no means an exhaustive list and as conditions vary from Island to Island it is still important for Districts, Temples and Affiliated Organizations to monitor their respective situations/circumstances and possibly make decisions. Thank you.**

**March 11, 2020**