



HONPA HONGWANJI MISSION OF HAWAII

STATE HEADQUARTERS

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COVID-19 Memo #10

Directives, Recommendations and Guidelines from Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii Headquarters (August 20, 2020)

For City and County of Honolulu Only

Memo #10 is primarily for temples and facilities within the City and County of Honolulu only. As of August 19, 2020, 12Midnight, new stricter restrictions are in effect for the Island of Oahu as the City and County of Honolulu enters a phase called “Act Now Honolulu, No Social Gatherings” and will be in effect for the next 28 days until September 16, 2020. Under this Order, these are the new restrictions and recommendations:

- 1) Regardless of indoor or outdoor, no gatherings for purely social (not spiritual/religious) reasons. Exemptions with restrictions for spiritual/religious and eating establishments.
- 2) Clergy can chant with masks on and some singing and wind instruments are allowed, but there are strict measures which need to be in place. The HQ recommendation is to have no (group or mass) singing at temple including the use of wind instruments,
- 3) In business office break rooms, no social gathering is allowed at all during breaks and lunchtime. Lunch or Break rooms can be used for limited minimal usage only such as warming food with no eating or socializing together in the area, and
- 4) Along with following safety measures, a staggered work schedule is recommended.

For religious services, some of the previous mandates and recommendations for Oahu are still in place such as:

Funeral and Related Services - Limited to 10 individuals.

Funeral, mortuary, cremation, burial, cemetery, and related professional services, provided that each death-related event (funeral, etc.) is:

- (a) limited to 10 individuals maximum (with members from different households/living units maintaining physical distance of at least six (6) feet between each other at all times);
- (b) face coverings are worn consistent with Order 5; and
- (c) there is compliance with all other applicable Social Distancing Requirements;

In-person Spiritual Services except the above services - Organizers should limit the number of persons attending.

In-person spiritual services may be conducted provided all of the following are implemented:

- a. All persons present at the service must maintain six (6) feet of physical distance between others, except members of the same household or living unit. Organizers are encouraged to limit the number of persons attending in-person spiritual services to ensure this physical distancing requirement is met and the wearing of face masks when attending services. Although, it is permissible to have in-person spiritual services, it is recommended that in-person Sunday services be put on hold for the duration of the Mayor’s “Act Now Honolulu, No Social Gatherings” Order.

For All Counties: Hawaii County, Maui County, Kauai County and City & County of Honolulu

- 1) Please regularly check the Federal CDC Guidelines, State of Hawaii Governor's including Department of Health and Department of Education guidelines, and also your local County and/or Mayor's websites. As the conditions vary from County to County, it is important that you check your local County and/or Mayor's Websites as different Counties have different guidelines, measures and restrictions.
- 2) If you have reopened, do not feel obligated to remain open. If the situation and circumstances are such, please reconsider holding in-person services. Regardless of the direness of the situation, all temples and affiliates are strongly encouraged to offer virtual online services, meetings and seminars, etc.
- 3) Please remember that the State of Hawaii has a travel quarantine which requires all individuals, except those who are exempt, who travel to or return back to Kauai, Maui including Molokai and Lanai and the Big Island to quarantine for 14 days. Hence, interisland traveling is not recommended.
- 4) Mindful of parameters, in making our temples vibrant and sound, and to connect with one another and help each other, let us think outside of the box as we try to adjust to this new normal and adjust to ever changing situation with COVID-19 by using modern technology and age-tested methods of safe communication.
- 5) Please check out these links for possible financial assistance or grants that you might be eligible for.

[Maui County Relief Plan](#)

[Kauai County](#)

[County of Hawaii](#)

[City and County of Honolulu](#)

Thank you very much. As the Governor emphasized it is so important that we each take personal responsibility and act as a community to curb the spread and stop the Coronavirus. Let us do our part to stay safe for not only our own sake, but the sake of others too. May we go to the Three Treasures for guidance, support and inspiration.

In gassho,

Rev. Eric Matsumoto, Bishop and
Dr. Warren Tamamoto, State President
Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii