



## HONPA HONGWANJI MISSION OF HAWAII

STATE HEADQUARTERS

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### COVID-19 Memo #15

#### Directives, Recommendations and Guidelines from Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii Headquarters (March 21, 2021)

##### Vaccination Update

The state has expanded COVID-19 vaccine eligibility to people age 65 and older and those who qualify as individuals in phase 1C since Monday, March 15, 2021. Religious organization employees (clergy and lay staff) are Phase 1C, but are currently not eligible to book their appointment and being asked to wait until their turn comes.

Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii encourages every eligible person to consider getting vaccinated. However, this is voluntary, not mandatory. If you have specific questions about the COVID-19 vaccine and your health, please consult with your healthcare provider.

For further information, updates, and registration details regarding vaccinations, please check the following websites:

[State Department of Health Vaccine Information](#)  
[City and County of Honolulu](#)  
[County of Kauai](#)  
[County of Maui](#)  
[County of Hawaii](#)

##### For the City and County of Honolulu (Oahu)

As of February 25, 2021, the City and County of Honolulu (Oahu) has entered Tier 3 with less restrictions. In addition, the City and County of Honolulu announced the amendment to Honolulu's COVID-19 Recovery Framework on March 8, 2021. The following amendment became effective March 8, 2021:

**Funeral, mortuary, cremation, burial, cemetery, and related services, provided that each death-related event (funeral, etc.)** are allowed to operate without the strict 25 person limit, but limiting capacity to ensure six foot distancing is maintained as with other controlled business categories in Tier 3.

The following Restrictions, regulations, and recommendations are still ongoing:

**Gatherings.** Indoor and outdoor social gatherings of more than ten (10) individuals are prohibited. For purposes of this Order, a "social gathering" is a gathering or event that brings together persons from multiple households or living units at the same time for a discrete, shared or group experience in a single room, space, or place such as a private home, park, auditorium, stadium, arena, conference room, lunch room, meeting hall, or other indoor or outdoor space.

**In-person spiritual services.** In-person spiritual services may be conducted provided applicable Social Distancing Requirements are adhered to including, but not limited to, the wearing of face coverings and maintaining proper physical distancing.

**Drive-in services (e.g., drive-in movies, holiday-related drive-in/drive-thru events, spiritual/religious services, etc.).** May be conducted provided all of the following:

- a. All persons attending the service must drive up in an enclosed vehicle. Attendees of the service must remain in their vehicles at all times, except to use the restroom while complying with Social Distancing Requirements (including wearing a face covering and maintaining six (6) feet of physical distance between others). Where restroom facilities are provided, the organizers must ensure the availability of handwashing stations or sanitizer, and the routine maintenance and cleaning of the facilities consistent with CDC guidance.
- b. Vehicle windows, sunroofs and convertible tops must remain closed during the entire service, unless the vehicle is parked more than six (6) feet away from any other vehicle.
- c. Each vehicle may only be occupied by either (i) members of the same household or living unit; or (ii) limited to five (5) individuals for mixed household/living unit attendees.
- d. Generally, no food, beverages, equipment, or materials of any kind may be distributed or collected during the service. However, organizers may use unattended drop-boxes, or distribute individually packaged (or pre-ordered) food, beverages, equipment, or materials consistent with CDC guidelines and the Order. Please refer to C&C of Honolulu website for more details.

Full version of the Mayor's Emergency Order No. 2021-03 and the amended Honolulu's COVID-19 Recovery Framework can be found [here](#).

### **For Kauai County, Maui County, and Hawaii County**

#### **Gatherings.**

For Kauai County and Hawaii County, indoor social gatherings of groups up to ten (10) persons are permitted and outdoor gatherings of groups up to 25 persons are permitted.

For Maui County, indoor or outdoor social gatherings of up to 5 persons are permitted.

#### **In-person spiritual services (including funeral and related services).**

In-person spiritual services may be conducted provided applicable Social Distancing Requirements are adhered to including, but not limited to, the wearing of face coverings and maintaining proper physical distancing. Organizers should limit the number of persons attending in-person spiritual services to ensure this physical distancing requirement is met.

For Kauai County, in-person spiritual services are limited to no more than 50% of the maximum occupant load of the facility or room.

### **For All Counties**

Please check the following websites for further information and updates.

[Centers for Disease Control](#)  
[State of Hawaii](#)  
[State Department of Education](#)

[City and County of Honolulu](#)  
[County of Kauai](#)  
[County of Maui](#)  
[County of Hawaii](#)

**HQ Recommendations:**

1. Air travel is not recommended for Hawaii Kyodan business unless it is an emergency or urgent business.
2. Local temple leaders, please use your discretion taking into consideration your ability to provide safety measures including sanitation and disinfection and the overall sentiment of your membership and temple staff and/or volunteers as to whether you reopen or not to provide in-person services. If you are providing online spiritual services, it is highly recommended that you continue to do so. If you are reopening another consideration is a hybrid service of in-person and online. Please refrain from mass singing.
3. HQ recommends continuing the policy of virtual services and limited in-person services until the ministers and lay staff (who choose to be vaccinated) have had a chance to get vaccinated.

Finally, 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 the still fluid situation with COVID-19 by using modern technology and age-tested methods of safe communication and good communication. Thank you for tirelessly endeavoring to keep our temples and community operating and safe!

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