

All around the world, we are experiencing unprecedented times. There is much uncertainty and, unfortunately, no one knows what will happen at this point. But what we do know is that we can still take action to protect ourselves and others from exposure to COVID-19. The high level of concern about testing or the possibility of a confirmed case on campus is understandable. However, the key point we would like to emphasize is this: do not wait until there is a confirmed case on campus to take all available precautions to protect yourself from exposure to COVID-19.

From now on, we will be sending a daily update to convey essential information to everyone staying at our housing. These will be sent via the Rave messaging system. We will endeavor to send this at the same time every day, but please bear with us as we coordinate with many EWC staff in different locations teleworking.

EWC Update for March 21

- EWC has put together a [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#) page that we will continue to update and build upon in the coming days and months. Please visit regularly for updates.
- Many residents have departed and others are in the process of returning home. As of today, we are at 45% occupancy rate across EWC housing. The EWC has strongly encouraged a reduced occupancy rate to enable improved social-distancing practices for all those residents and students who have decided to stay with us during this global crisis. We have no plans to close our housing.
- To aid your social-distancing practices, our current occupancy per building is currently as follows:
 - Hale Kuahine: Total rooms = 85. Currently occupied rooms = 55
 - Hale Manoa: Total rooms = 386. Currently occupied rooms = 190
 - Lincoln Hall: Total rooms = 93. Currently occupied rooms = 9
- We know there are questions about students and residents staying in Lincoln Hall. Lincoln Hall is being used for self-monitoring by students and residents who have traveled and those who have self-identified as having flu-like symptoms. This is not a “quarantine” facility, although it could be used in that way should that become necessary.
- There are now cases of community spread here in Hawaii. There will be many more. All residents and students should be operating as though there are possible active cases in any environment, including housing. This is why we continue to emphasize social distancing and hygiene measures as the best way to protect yourself. Don’t rely on testing and confirmed positives to influence your behavior. The time to implement radical social distancing is now.
- It is great to see the ways that you are coming together to support one another. We welcome your ideas and suggestions. Please continue to forward them to: housing@eastwestcenter.org or to your program coordinator. We ask that you be kind and considerate of the whole EWC community in your comments and suggestions. Like you, our EWC staff are also trying to reduce the risk of exposure to COVID-19. More than ever, we need to embody the aloha spirit of Hawaii – the best way to help other people is to keep your distance from other people, wash your hands frequently with soap, and clean surfaces that you use as much as you can.