

EWC Housing Weekly Update April 7, 2022

Changes to mask requirement in EWC residence halls: As most of you are probably aware, Governor Ige lifted the state-wide indoor mask mandate on March 26th.

EWC-Housing, in consultation with residents and staff, has decided to follow suit. Effective Thursday, April 7th, masks/face coverings will no longer be *required* inside EWC residence halls. That said, mask wearing remains encouraged, especially when in larger gatherings, in less-well ventilated indoor spaces, or if you believe you may have symptoms or have been exposed.

It is important to remember that COVID remains active in our communities and new variants continue to emerge. EWC-Housing will continue to monitor the indicators that informed our decision to move to a mask-optional policy. These indicators, as well as any mandates by County, State and Federal officials may require that this policy be changed again in future.

Please Note: This policy applies to EWC *residence halls* and Hale Hālāwai. Other buildings at the Center (e.g. Jefferson Hall, Burns Hall, etc.) may have different or additional guidelines. **In addition, specific events and activities may set their own requirements and guidelines that require masking** (such as East-West Fest). Units, kitchens, and planned activities may decide they would like to set a higher norm or standard for their space or activity. Please be sensitive to these decisions.

As with previous COVID-19 policy rules that have been lifted, it is important to be mindful that not everyone is comfortable moving at the same pace. Hopefully we can all put forth our best effort to listen to one another and be open to trying to meet everyone in our shared spaces where they are.

Changes to Travel Policy: Effective April 15, the EWC will no longer require residents traveling out-of-state to self-isolate at Lincoln Hall before returning to their regular dorm room at HM/HK. If a resident is exempt from the State of Hawai'i's quarantine requirement, they may return directly to their dorm room.*

However, travel continues to be a risk and we ask all residents to take extra precautions upon returning from travel to mitigate risk to our community members. **Returning travelers are requested to wear a high-quality mask for a minimum of 3 days, closely monitor symptoms, maintain social distancing, and request a test kit from the front desk if you believe you have been in an area of increased risk.**

A reminder that if you have symptoms or have been exposed, you must still report immediately to Housing and will be required to self-isolate in Lincoln Hall per this policy: [Microsoft Word - Positive-Test-Symptoms-Procedure-for-Students \(1\) \(ewcparticipantinfo.org\)](#)

*If a resident is not exempt from the State of Hawai'i's quarantine requirement, they must still quarantine at Lincoln Hall per State of Hawai'i regulations and EWC Housing Quarantine Guidelines.

Note to residents returning from travel who have already reserved a room at Lincoln Hall:

- If your scheduled arrival date is *before* April 15: You will still be required to self-isolate at Lincoln Hall, however, you may return to your dorm room at HM/HK on April 15th.
- If your scheduled arrival date is *April 15 or later*: Your reservation for Lincoln Hall will be cancelled.

East-West Fest: We hope you will join us on Sunday (April 10) for East-West Fest, a celebration of the diverse cultures that make up our East-West Center community! East-West Fest will be held at the Imin

Center Lanai from 2-6pm. In addition to exciting performances of music and dance, we will have 20 culture booths led by students and staff to share the rich culture, languages, music, food and ideas of our shared Asia Pacific-U.S. region. Masks and proof of vaccination status will be required of all visitors (as students, you will just need to show your HM or HK key card). We are looking forward to coming together after such a long time to re-connect and celebrate our wonderful community!

Vaccination and booster sites:

- Hawai'i: hawaiicovid19.com/vaccine/
- National: www.vaccines.gov/search/

Resources

- **EWC Notices**
 - [EWC COVID-19 Policy and Resource Site](#)
 - [Positive COVID-19 Test, Symptoms - Procedure for EWC Students](#)
 - [Current Off-Island Travel Policy \(in effect on 3/14/22\)](#)
 - [New Travel Policy \(in effect 4/15/22\): The full policy will be provided on the EWC COVID-19 Policy and Resource Site shortly](#)
- **COVID-19 FAQs and Emergency Contacts:**
 - EWC Policies and Information: [EWC COVID-19 Policy and Resource Site](#)
 - EWC Housing contact email, which EWC staff regularly and frequently monitor: housing@eastwestcenter.org.
 - EWC Housing phone number: **(808) 944-7960**. For reports on matters of immediate concern, such as residents not complying with social distancing rules or smoking in the building, we urge you to call rather than email, even during working hours.
- **Mental Health:**
 - [Managing Stress](#), from the American Heart Association.
 - Link to UH Mānoa [Counseling and Student Development Center](#).
 - Link to Hawaii Adult Mental Health Division, including CARES hotline: <https://health.hawaii.gov/amhd/>.
 - Resources for staying well from Kaiser Permanente, with self-care tools, tips, and activities: https://healthy.kaiserpermanente.org/health-wellness/mental-health/tools-resources?kp_shortcut_referrer=kp.org/selfcare
 - Information about keeping healthy and boosting your immune system: <https://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/health/wellness-and-prevention>
 - EWC Participant Association mental health and stress relief list: [Support Resources for EWC Participants](#)
- **Other Useful Information:**
 - [Hawai'i vaccination strategy](#)

- Hawai'i: State of Hawai'i Department of Health updates, resources and information (now available in 8 different languages): <https://hawaiicovid19.com/>
- Hawai'i: Resource from O'ahu Community Resilience with information, links, and FAQs: <https://www.oneoahu.org>
- Symptoms: CDC information about symptoms and protecting yourself: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>

Distribution:

- All EWC Housing Residents
- Housing Staff
- Covid-19 Task Force (CTF)