

Kaua`i Physicians

November 3, 2020

**Kauai Area Superintendent Paul Zina
Kauai District Health Officer Janet Berreman, M.D.**

To Mr. Paul Zina and Dr. Janet Berreman,

Parents have been telling the healthcare providers of Kaua`i that different schools and classrooms have different practices concerning mask wearing in classroom settings and classroom ventilation. We reviewed the current advice for schools from the CDC and the HIDOE. We noted that there have been October updates concerning this advice and that it has changed since the Kaua`i pediatricians wrote in July. The changing advice incorporates the increasing scientific evidence for the potential for disease spread by the smaller aerosolized droplets which may linger in the air and that the transmission potential is the highest in poorly ventilated indoor spaces.

Earlier advice did not key in on ventilation as specifically as it does now. Wearing masks if there was six feet of separation appeared to have been more of a recommendation than a requirement.

The newer guidelines are quite specific that the best practice for ventilation is turning off ACs, opening all windows and considering the use of fans (Yale algorithm below) and that masks should be worn at all times in classrooms.

We understand that the changing guidelines may be confusing for teachers and principals particularly as there is still room for individual interpretation.

Our request, as the medical care givers for these children, is that teachers optimize classroom ventilation with maximizing flow of outside air and that mask wearing in all classrooms at all times be the expected standard.

We highly respect the dedication and the daily risks for staff and students, particularly as our island opens up to visitors. We only bring these issues up to help us all stay as safe as possible.

Mahalo to all the DOE and DOH personnel who work daily to keep us all safe and to educate our children.

Sincerely,

**Lee A. Evslin, M.D.
Gracie Galiza, D.O.
Alyssa Murata, M.D
Sarah Lam, M.D.**

**Robert Wotring, M.D.
Kapono Chong-Hanssen, M.D.
David Zimmerman, M.D.
Paul Esaki, M.D.**

**Warren Sparks, M.D.
Linda Weiner, M.D.
Jesse Lam, M.D.**

References:

CDC

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/schools.html>

Hawaii State Department of Education Return to Learn: School Reopening Plans

<http://www.hawaiipublicschools.org/DOE%20Forms/2020->

[07%20Health%20and%20Safety%20Handbook%20\(SY%202020-21\)%20Version%201.pdf](http://www.hawaiipublicschools.org/DOE%20Forms/2020-07%20Health%20and%20Safety%20Handbook%20(SY%202020-21)%20Version%201.pdf)

HIDOE Guidelines for Ventilation

<http://www.hawaiipublicschools.org/DOE%20Forms/HIDOE%20Attachment%20AC%20Operation%20Guideline%20072320.pdf>

Yale: School Ventilation



