

Subject: Important Update for Second Quarter
Date: Friday, October 15, 2021 at 8:01:04 AM Hawaii-Aleutian Standard Time
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Aloha mai kākou,

The end of fall break is upon us. We hope you and your 'ohana have been able to spend time together, and you all have found rest and rejuvenation.

Over the first quarter, our learning community has accomplished so much. Through our collective efforts, we were able to return our haumāna to in-person learning, enable student athletes to return to competition (celebrating an opening win over Maui High in girls volleyball), and ensure that campus life can once again spark joy in our haumāna through interactions with their kumu and peers. Mahalo for your trust in us — only together could we have gotten to this place.

Through all of this, and the many layers of safety protocols we have in place, we have remained safe and have embraced our kuleana of lāhui kapu to mālama each other and our entire learning community.

The recent data trends as it relates to COVID in our school and the larger Maui community are very encouraging. However, the Delta variant continues to be an example of how important it is to remain vigilant to minimize spread, protect ourselves, and create the conditions to return our lives to what we knew existed before COVID brought so many of the interruptions and hardship specifically to the Native Hawaiian community that we still navigate through today.

There are two key changes you and your 'ohana should know:

1. All KS employees will now be required to be vaccinated. Employees will have until December 17 to register or request a religious or medical exemption.
2. New technology will be implemented to keep haumāna connected in the classroom when they are impacted by illness or COVID-19 and enhance our ability to contact trace when required.

Vaccination Requirement for all KS employees

KS leadership has made the decision enterprise-wide to require the COVID

vaccine for all KS employees effective January 4, 2022. This was communicated from KS Executive Leadership last week Friday. And, while 93% of our regular staff at KS Maui is registered as vaccinated, all of us in this learning community are still being impacted by close contact quarantines. Vaccination currently remains the only way to avoid an extended quarantine in accordance with guidance from both the CDC and the Hawai'i Department of Health.

KS has posted FAQ's that can be accessed [here](#).

COVID-19 Testing Program Continues

All grade 7-12 haumāna, employees, visitors, vendors, and volunteers are currently required to participate in weekly testing, **unless they register as fully vaccinated with Kamehameha Schools** or are recovered from having COVID within the past 90 days.

We continue to offer [voluntary surveillance testing for haumāna in grades K-6](#) as well as haumāna in [grades 6-12 who are registered with KS as being vaccinated](#).

As a friendly reminder the next test for both required and voluntary surveillance testing haumāna is due on Monday, October 18 at 8:30 AM to the health room in your child's division.

While all test kits for the month of October have already been sent home, if you misplaced your test kit, your child can report directly to the health room on Monday morning and complete their test with the nurse.

New Technology for Learning Continuity and Contact Tracing

The Delta variant has brought much disruption to many haumāna and kumu due to the quarantine periods that are required for close contacts. While the hope is that we will continue to experience fewer cases as transmission rates decline and vaccination rates increase, we believe contact tracing and quarantine may continue to be a factor for the near term.

To help keep haumāna connected to their classrooms, new [OWL Pro camera devices](#) have been set-up in classrooms to assist with synchronous learning when haumāna are home due to illness, or need to quarantine and/or when a class/cohort pivots to distance learning due to COVID-19, in conjunction with other learning resources provided through Canvas or Seesaw. As you return to campus next week, you will begin to receive more information from your Lower and Upper Division Heads on what can be expected from you in the use of and engagement with this technology when you or your child is impacted due to COVID-19.

We will also be piloting a tool with a select group of haumāna and staff during the second quarter. Through the use of a Bluetooth enabled tag we will be able to greatly improve the accuracy and precision of contact tracing. More information will be provided after we return from the Fall Break.

E Ku'upau Kākou

Our journey has been lined with milestones that show that each step forward

is done with intention and care. With the first quarter under our belt, there are several changes on the horizon reflecting our continued commitment to lāhui kapu for our learning community. We are ready to take the next step in the progression toward providing our haumāna with a fuller KS Maui experience that is such a meaningful part ku'upau, our path to E Ola!

We'll continue to share more with everyone as information is available. Until then, we wish you a safe, final weekend of Fall Break and we will be ready to welcome you back for the second quarter on Monday, October 18.



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