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GOVERNOR



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SUPERINTENDENT

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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Aloha Niu Valley Middle Staff, Parents and Guardians,

I was made aware this morning that two of our students were recently diagnosed with COVID-19. We are in contact with the families and have sent our Aloha for a speedy recovery. One student was last on campus Tuesday, Jan. 19 and the other student on Dec. 2020; however, these cases are unrelated as transmission occurred off campus and in separate situations. Out of respect for this person's privacy, I won't be sharing additional information.

Our school is taking the necessary precautions including notifying potential close contacts, professionally cleaning and disinfecting the impacted areas, coordinating next steps with the Hawai'i State Department of Education's COVID-19 Response Team, and sharing case information with the Hawai'i State Department of Health (DOH).

The DOH is the lead agency when it comes to contact tracing. Close contact is defined as (regardless of whether persons were wearing face masks), within 6 feet of an infected person over a 24-hour period for a combined total of 15 minutes or more, in direct contact with case's secretions (e.g. being coughed on), and all persons in the same classroom as the case for 15 minutes or longer.

If you have any concerns, I encourage you to speak with your healthcare provider or DOH using these options, health.hawaii.gov/docd/contact-us.

We have the ability to play a large role in combating this pandemic. I urge everyone to do their part both on and off campus, which includes following county, state and federal requirements to stop the spread of the virus. Please continue to practice physical distancing, wear a mask, wash your hands frequently, and avoid unnecessary social gatherings.

As a reminder, before coming onto campus, please do a wellness check using the following guidance, bit.ly/WellnessCheckHIDOE. Individuals who are exhibiting any symptoms, or who have been directed to quarantine by the DOH, should not come to campus. If someone in your household has been tested for COVID-19 or if they are exhibiting symptoms, please call before



coming to campus so we can assess the situation and determine if a visit is necessary and/or appropriate.

Sincerely,

Laura Ahn

Principal



AN AFFIRMATIVE ACTION AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER