



March 26, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

As you are aware, our community is in a state of crisis due to the COVID-19 virus. Over the last two weeks, Hilo Medical Center (HMC) administration developed a planned staged response to this pandemic. As of today, we have only one positive case of COVID-19 in East Hawaii. Currently, we are at Stage 2 of 6 stage management plan, as we have a travel related case without community spread.

Seeing what has been happening in China, Italy and the mainland, it is only a matter of time before we will see community spread of this virus. Hilo Medical Center will need the support of all our providers, hospital-based as well as community providers, to help with this crisis.

Stage 3 is when 2 or more confirmed community acquired COVID-19 cases are present. At this stage, we would ask that the community providers keep their offices/clinics open for non-COVID patients. All potential COVID-19 patients can be screened over the phone and sent to the HMC drive thru testing site or severe cases can be triaged at the Acute Care Module at HMC porte cochere.

During Stage 4 we will be using all hospital-based physicians and by Stage 5, the hospital will need all hands-on deck to care for patients, which means community providers will be called upon to help. Community providers will be needed in two capacities. Some may volunteer to care for inpatients at the hospital, while some will be needed to provide follow-up telemedicine service. Providers who volunteer for inpatient services will be given disaster temporary hospital privileges during this time of crisis (please see the attached application). There will be a central command center with a physician resource pool coordinator who will be scheduling and assigning providers to certain positions, wards, etc.

Malpractice insurance and compensation will be provided by the hospital to all willing community providers that work triage, inpatient care, or work remotely via telemedicine for the purposes of performing follow-ups on patients without primary care providers. A sample contract is included in this email. Please inform us if you are not enrolled in Medicare or Medicaid.

At this time, Dr. Kathleen Katt will be the HMC COVID-19 Community Healthcare Provider Liaison. You may contact her with questions at (808) 640-1122.

East Hawaii IPA members should contact Jo Vitales at jvitales@ehiipa.com (808-797-3113) to sign up and for information.

As with any disaster plan, change is a constant and the plan will be evolving. HMC administration and we will do our best to keep you all updated. We realize this may be a hardship for us, but we are a community that needs to come together. We shall get through this crisis but everybody's help and support is needed.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding during this trying time.

DocuSigned by:

Lovina Sabnani DO

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Dr. Lovina Sabnani
HMC Chief of Staff

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lynda Dolan".

Dr. Lynda Dolan
President, East Hawaii IPA

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Attachments:

- Sample HMC Provider Contract
- Disaster Temporary Emergency Privileges
- HMC COVID-19 Management Plan Version 2