Aloha UH employees,

Thank you for all your help in keeping our campuses safe. We have worked with the Hawaii State Department of Health to vaccinate thousands of employees so far, with thousands more holding appointments for the COVID-19 vaccines.

Now, we need to find out which employees still want to receive the vaccine but have not received an invitation to sign up. Also, for those of you who originally chose not to receive the vaccine but have changed your mind, please inform the head of your unit that you would like to receive the vaccine.

Unit leads, please send the lists by Monday, March 8, 6 p.m. to covid19@hawaii.edu.

The COVID-19 vaccine is not mandatory, and getting vaccinated is a personal and private decision based on each individual's situation. There is growing evidence from around the world and across the US that the vaccines are effective in reducing the numbers of new COVID-19 cases and in preventing hospitalizations and death. Continued low numbers of cases and hospitalizations are critical to safely returning to more in-person and larger group activities, such as in-person classes at UH.

Here are some answers to questions that have come up frequently:

*Do I need to pay to get the vaccine?*

No.

*Are the COVID-19 vaccines safe?*

Yes. COVID-19 vaccines have gone through the same rigorous safety protocols and monitoring as all vaccines in the U.S. Safety monitoring is ongoing for the next two years.

*Can you get COVID-19 by getting vaccinated?*

No. None of the vaccines contain a live virus and cannot give you COVID-19.

*Are the COVID-19 vaccines effective?*

Yes. All vaccines are very effective and will build your body's ability to fight the COVID-19 virus. If you do get COVID-19 after being vaccinated, you will probably get a milder case and have fewer symptoms. All of the COVID-19 vaccines are highly effective in preventing hospitalization and death from the disease.

Vaccination appointment process:

A quick reminder of the process when receiving an invitation:

*You will receive an email invitation from a third party such as Adventist Health Castle, Hawaii Pacific Health, Queen's Health System, Kaiser Permanente, or directly from your County.*

***DO NOT SHARE THE INVITATION EMAILS, LINKS OR CODES***

***Each site has slightly different verification procedures, but they do cross check with the lists we provide.***

***Check your spam folders. There have been cases of invitations getting stuck in spam folders.***

*Do your best to make yourself available for the slots offered to you, as the number of appointments are expected to be limited as the State opens up to the 70+ year olds (starting Monday) and begins vaccinating the 1C group within the next few weeks.*

*You are allotted 2 hours of administrative time for each dose; work out the details of your time off with your supervisor.*

*For most vaccination sites, you will generally receive an appointment for your second dose at the time of your first appointment. Be sure to bring your calendar with you.*

*The vaccine is free, but you will likely be asked to bring an insurance card. (Providers will be allowed to recover an administrative fee as part of the federal program). If you do not have health insurance, you may still receive the vaccine.*
*Follow the instructions given by the vaccine provider regarding what items to bring (to verify that you are a UH or RCUH employee): UH ID, UH badge, UH paystub, or a letter from your supervisor attesting that you are employed at UH. Also, be ready to provide a copy of your confirmation email (either on your phone or hard copy).

*UH does not have access to appointment systems. If you have any questions about your appointment time, please contact the third party.

We believe the vast majority of employees who want to be vaccinated have been vaccinated or have appointment times. So, this will be the last time the UH will be making available opportunities for UH employees to be vaccinated; after this, opportunities may be available to UH employees as members of the public, but not through UH.

Thank you for your participation in the vaccination program.

Mahalo nui loa,

UH Vaccination Team

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This message was sent on behalf of The UH Vaccination Team. Please do not reply to this message. It was sent from an address that cannot accept incoming email.

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