



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

September 17, 2015

Re: Prevention of Heat Related Illness

Dear Parents and Guardians:

As we continue to face record-high temperatures we need parents and schools working together to mitigate this problem and keep children safe. The Hawaii State Department of Education and Department of Health have worked together to develop detailed guidelines regarding heat. Here are some recommendations to prepare your child for school to deal with the warm temperatures:

- Have your child wear light-weight, loose-fitting, cotton clothing
- Send your child with a small water bottle on hot days
- Make sure your child has a cap with a brim that protects the face for outdoor activities
- Talk to your child about the dangers of getting overheated
- If your child has physical and/or health needs that may require an Emergency Action Plan (EAP) updated or developed for heat related illness, please contact your School Health Aide. They will refer you to a Public Health Nurse (PHN) assigned to your school. The PHN will assess the student's health needs, and work with the parent/guardian and physician to update or develop an EAP. The plan will be available to appropriate staff at all times. This may include:
 - Medical conditions such as asthma or other breathing difficulties, history of life-threatening or severe allergic reactions, diabetes, seizure disorders, and technology-dependent or medically fragile conditions.
 - Physical limitations such as auditory impaired, visually impaired, wheel chair bound, walking impairment, or wheel chair bound.

We appreciate your assistance in helping deal with this record heat. Both departments are also working to provide enhanced guidance for our school staff.

Should you have any questions, please contact your school's administration.

Very truly yours,

Handwritten signature of Kathryn S. Matayoshi in black ink.

Kathryn S. Matayoshi
Superintendent

Very truly yours,

Handwritten signature of Virginia Pressler in black ink.

Virginia Pressler, M.D.
Director of Health

KSM:lm