



University of Hawai'i Diving Safety Program

COVID19 ADVISORY #9

Resumption of Requirement for DFA-Pro Practical Training

With UH essential divers (and an increasing proportion of all UH divers) having access to vaccination, the UHDSPP trainers and Diving Control Board have concluded that small, in-person DAN DFA-Pro training groups with four or fewer students can now be conducted with reasonably low risk using developed safety measures. These measures include: pre-training screening for COVID via DAN and/or UH questionnaires; verification of participant vaccination status (positive or negative); providing as much ventilation to the training room as possible; global use of gloves and barrier masks; availability of disinfection resources; CPR manikins dedicated to each student; and providing each student with their own CPR resuscitation mask to disinfect and keep for field use after training is complete. Costs of these measures can be covered by the current course fee with no increase expected.

At this time, the DCB has approved the discontinuation of the 12 month extension for expiring certifications by completing DAN eLearning and written exam without practical skills training. Divers whose certifications expire henceforth will be required to complete full retraining including practical skills per DAN training standards in order to remain in Active status. Divers currently in an extension period are encouraged to complete a full DFA-Pro course at their earliest convenience, but are allowed to continue in Active status until the end of their extended expiration.

All UH divers are strongly encouraged by the DCB to become vaccinated at their first possible opportunity. Regardless of vaccination status and all safety measures, we recognize that the risk of virus transmission cannot be reduced to zero, but after vaccination the likelihood and consequences of infection are greatly reduced in almost all cases. Non-vaccinated personnel and others not wishing to risk a four-student class size may request a dedicated solo or two-student class with a proportionately higher training fee.