Nu‘uanu/Punchbowl Neighborhood Board – September 20, 2022

Karl Rhoads

Last meeting: July 19, 2022

1. The Omicron BA.4 and BA.5 subvariants are considered to be the most contagious of the covid strains. In addressing this, the US FDA recently approved updated boosters which target the BA.4 and BA.5 subvariants. The new boosters are “bivalent” shots which contain half of the original vaccine recipe and half protection against BA.4 and BA.5. For more information about the new boosters, please visit the following website at:

<https://www.fda.gov/emergency-preparedness-and-response/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/covid-19-bivalent-vaccine-boosters>

3. Last week, the Dept. of Health reported 1343 new covid cases with a 7-day average of 182 cases and 10 deaths. I encourage you to get your shots and boosters and continue to wear masks inside even where you don't have to.

4. Keep in mind that even with 75% of the population fully vaccinated, 93% of those who died last year from covid were unvaccinated. That means that your chances of avoiding illness and death are much higher if you vaccinate & boost.

5. I also encourage you to get your flu shots. They are available now and can be taken on the same day as the covid booster. While the flu is usually not nearly as deadly as covid, in the 2018-19 flu season it killed 27,000 Americans.

5. Don't hesitate to call my office, 586-6130, with questions or concerns or email me at [senrhoads@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:senrhoads@capitol.hawaii.gov)