

# State of Hawai'i Weekly COVID-19 Cluster Report



November 19, 2020

### **Key Updates: Clusters in Maritime Settings**

- Preventing transmission of COVID-19 in maritime settings can pose unique challenges, often related to
  difficulty in adhering to social distancing recommendations. Multiple small clusters have occurred in
  Hawai'i among individuals that spent significant amounts of time together on ships, boats, and other
  maritime vessels. For example, small clusters involving between two and eight cases of COVID-19 have
  been uncovered by Hawai'i Department of Health disease investigators this year involving tugboats,
  small commercial shipping vessels, and privately-owned recreational boats in the waters off the
  coasts of Oahu, Hawai'i Island, Maui, and Molokai. All of these investigations identified lack of social
  distancing as a primary contributing factor in transmission.
- A COVID-19 cluster identified in September involved ship building specialists working in the same shop.
   Although the nine employees in this shop that tested positive reported wearing masks while working, cramped working conditions led to workers being within 6 feet of each other for extended durations.
- An investigation is ongoing involving a group of individuals working in and around a shipping terminal,
  with a total of nine primary cases and ten additional linked cases outside the primary setting identified
  so far. Preliminary information suggests that workers from different companies eating together in a
  shared lunchroom might have been a contributing factor in transmission between coworkers.

### Introduction to the State of Hawai'i Weekly COVID-19 Cluster Report

A disease cluster refers to multiple cases of a disease occurring at one time, in one geographic location, or among people with the same or similar shared exposures. Public health officials investigate and study disease clusters because they can provide important information about how diseases are transmitted between individuals and among groups of people; information which can then be used to identify risk factors, inform official recommendations, design interventions, and implement policies to prevent, mitigate, and stop the spread of that disease in communities.

In Hawai'i, COVID-19 clusters associated with community events, social gatherings, workplaces, and other settings have helped public health officials understand the specific settings where disease transmission is most likely to occur. As our state looks to modify current restrictions on businesses and activities implemented in response to the global COVID-19 pandemic, the Hawai'i State Department of Health is prioritizing not only investigating and analyzing local COVID-19 clusters, but also sharing current cluster information and disseminating key lessons learned to date.

It is important to note that most COVID-19 cases cannot be linked to a specific setting or cluster. Therefore, the total number of cases identified as associated with COVID-19 clusters in Hawai'i will be significantly lower than the overall total number of cases of COVID-19 identified within the State of Hawai'i. The tables below summarize COVID-19 clusters that have been identified through statewide case investigation and contact tracing efforts and are actively under investigation within the State of Hawai'i during the specified reporting week. The same cluster may be included in multiple reports from week to

week if a new case has been identified within 14 days of the date the report was finalized.

#### **Definitions for Terms Used in this Report**

Because this weekly report focuses on clusters associated with non-household exposures, the definition of a **COVID-19 cluster** employed within this report is as follows:

Two (2) or more confirmed or probable cases of SARS-CoV-2 (the virus that causes COVID-19) linked to a particular site or event within one incubation period (14 days) as long as those cases do not have outside exposure to each other (i.e. they are not household members or close contacts outside the selected location).

**Note:** Identifying cases as part of a cluster does not necessarily imply that transmission has occurred in the site or at the event associated with the cluster.

Additional definitions for terms used within this report are outlined below.

Case	Both confirmed and probable cases of SARS-CoV-2 (the virus that causes COVID-19), including deaths.
Confirmed case	A case with confirmatory laboratory evidence.
Probable case	<ul> <li>Refers to a case:</li> <li>Meeting clinical criteria AND epidemiologic linkage with no confirmatory laboratory testing performed for SARS-CoV-2</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>OR</li> <li>Meeting presumptive laboratory evidence</li> <li>OR</li> <li>Meeting vital records criteria with no confirmatory laboratory evidence for SARS-CoV-2.</li> </ul>
Cases associated with the primary setting	Refers to cases linked to a COVID-19 cluster that were directly exposed to the primary site or event.
Linked cases outside the primary setting	Refers to cases linked to a COVID-19 cluster that were NOT directly exposed to the primary site or event (for example, cases among household contacts of any cases associated with the primary setting).

### **Exposure Setting Categories**

Exposure Setting Category a	Specific Settings Included in Category b			
	Congregate Settings			
Correctional Facilities	Jails, prisons, detention centers, correctional treatment centers "sober living" centers, transitional correctional facilities or homes "halfway houses"			
Educational Settings	Preschools, K-12, and institutes of higher education, school-based athletics, after school programs			
Shelters	Facilities providing short or long-term sheltering services for individuals and groups without access to permanent housing due to homelessness, disaster, emergency, violence, or other circumstances			
Food Service, Production, and Distribution				
Bars & Nightclubs	Establishments that are principally engaged in the business of selling alcoholic beverages for onsite consumption			
Food Suppliers	Grocery stores, other food distributors, manufacturers, warehouses, processors, farms, food pantries			
Restaurants	Food service establishments offering either dine-in or take-out services, cafeterias, banquet facilities / private event facilities / private reception venues where food is served			
Occupational Settings				
Construction & Industrial	Construction and industrial settings, including residential and non-residential construction sites, shipyards, non-food manufacturers, industrial warehouses, and related sales and distribution centers			
Other Occupational Settings	Offices, retail establishments, first responders			
Travel, Lodging, & Tourism	Domestic / international / interisland travel, lodging, cruise ships, other tourism			
	Social and Recreational Activities			
Social Gatherings	Parties, group gatherings, weddings, funerals, other social functions			
Places of Worship	Religious services and other events / activities at places of worship			
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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>a</sup> COVID-19 clusters in long term care and other healthcare settings are summarized in the **State of Hawai'i Weekly COVID-19 Clusters in Healthcare Settings Report.** Additionally, a long-term care table is included in the Disease Outbreak Control Division COVID-19 Operations Report weekly on Wednesdays.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>b</sup> Specific settings included in the reference table may not be exhaustive for the category.

#### **COVID-19 Cluster Tables**

# **City & County of Honolulu**

# **COVID-19 Clusters Under Investigation in Last 14 Days by Exposure Setting**

November 19, 2020

Exposure Category	Clusters (#)	Total Cases (#)	Cases Associated with Primary Setting (#)	Linked Cases Outside Primary Setting (#)	
Congregate Settings					
<b>Correctional Facilities</b>	2	580	532	48	
<b>Educational Settings</b>	4	12	10	2	
Shelters	1	16	16	0	
Food Service, Production, and Distribution					
Bars & Nightclubs	0	0	0	0	
Food Suppliers	1	8	4	4	
Restaurants	1	5	4	1	
		Occupational S	Settings		
Construction & Industrial	1	19	9	10	
Other Occupational Settings	0	0	0	0	
Travel, Lodging, & Tourism	0	0	0	0	
Social and Recreational Activities					
Social Gatherings	0	0	0	0	
Places of Worship	0	0	0	0	
Other					
Other:	0	0	0	0	

# **Hawai'i County**

# **COVID-19 Clusters Under Investigation in Last 14 Days by Exposure Setting**

November 19, 2020

Exposure Category	Clusters (#)	Total Cases (#)	Cases Associated with Primary Setting (#)	Linked Cases Outside Primary Setting (#)		
Congregate Settings						
Correctional Facilities	0	0	0	0		
Educational Settings	0	0	0	0		
Shelters	0	0	0	0		
Food Service, Production, and Distribution						
Bars & Nightclubs	0	0	0	0		
Food Suppliers	0	0	0	0		
Restaurants	1	2	2	0		
		Occupational S	Settings			
Construction & Industrial	0	0	0	0		
Other Occupational Settings	0	0	0	0		
Travel, Lodging, & Tourism	1	2	2	0		
Social and Recreational Activities						
Social Gatherings	2	12	11	1		
Places of Worship	0	0	0	0		
Other						
Other:	0	0	0	0		

# **Maui County**

# **COVID-19 Clusters Under Investigation in Last 14 Days by Exposure Setting**

November 19, 2020

No active clusters.

# **Kauai County**

**COVID-19 Clusters Under Investigation in Last 14 Days by Exposure Setting** 

November 19, 2020

	November 19, 2020	
No active clusters.		