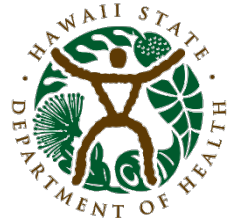




# State of Hawai'i

## Weekly COVID-19 Cluster Report

December 17, 2020



### Key Updates: Clusters Involving Social Gatherings

- **Substantial COVID-19 transmission can result from even small social gatherings, especially when masks are removed to eat and drink.** One cluster involving a friend group that frequently gathered for small social activities resulted in a total of 19 cases. Transmission appears to have occurred during at least three small gatherings in mid-November, including multiple beach gatherings and a backyard barbeque. In the case of the backyard barbeque, one attendee, who was asymptomatic, got tested for COVID-19 a few days following the event. Although that individual immediately notified the other three attendees, the information was received after the exposed individuals had attended other social events, worked, and had close contact with their household members, family, and close friends. Transmission in all of the social gatherings involved in this cluster was primarily observed among individuals **eating and drinking together in group social settings.**
- Attendees of a small birthday party in October became a COVID-19 cluster when all 7 later tested positive. Although attendees reported engaging in some preventive measures at the gathering, they also reported **frequently removing masks to eat and drink.** At one point the entire group crowded around a computer screen for an extended period of time to talk to someone who was participating via Zoom. Two attendees were hospitalized for COVID-19 related illness.
- One cluster traced to group of **teenagers socializing in a forested recreational area** shows the risk of riding together in the same car. One of the teens had recently returned from the mainland United States and was symptomatic during the gathering. Two other teens present for the outdoors excursion subsequently tested positive for COVID-19, as did one close contact that had not been present.

### 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.

<b>Case</b>	Both confirmed and probable cases of SARS-CoV-2 (the virus that causes COVID-19), including deaths.
<b>Confirmed case</b>	A case with confirmatory laboratory evidence.
<b>Probable case</b>	Refers to a case: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meeting clinical criteria AND epidemiologic linkage with no confirmatory laboratory testing performed for SARS-CoV-2</li> <li style="text-align: center;"><b>OR</b></li> <li>• Meeting presumptive laboratory evidence</li> <li style="text-align: center;"><b>OR</b></li> <li>• Meeting vital records criteria with no confirmatory laboratory evidence for SARS-CoV-2.</li> </ul>
<b>Cases associated with the primary setting</b>	Refers to cases linked to a COVID-19 cluster that were directly exposed to the primary site or event.
<b>Linked cases outside the primary setting</b>	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 <sup>a</sup>	Specific Settings Included in Category <sup>b</sup>
<b><i>Congregate Settings</i></b>	
<b>Correctional Facilities</b>	Jails, prisons, detention centers, correctional treatment centers / “sober living” centers, transitional correctional facilities or homes / “halfway houses”
<b>Educational Settings</b>	Preschools, K-12, and institutes of higher education, school-based athletics, after school programs
<b>Shelters</b>	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
<b><i>Food Service, Production, and Distribution</i></b>	
<b>Bars &amp; Nightclubs</b>	Establishments that are principally engaged in the business of selling alcoholic beverages for onsite consumption
<b>Food Suppliers</b>	Grocery stores, other food distributors, manufacturers, warehouses, processors, farms, food pantries
<b>Restaurants</b>	Food service establishments offering either dine-in or take-out services, cafeterias, banquet facilities / private event facilities / private reception venues where food is served
<b><i>Occupational Settings</i></b>	
<b>Construction &amp; Industrial</b>	Construction and industrial settings, including residential and non-residential construction sites, shipyards, non-food manufacturers, industrial warehouses, and related sales and distribution centers
<b>Other Occupational Settings</b>	Offices, retail establishments, first responders
<b>Travel, Lodging, &amp; Tourism</b>	Domestic / international / interisland travel, lodging, cruise ships, other tourism
<b><i>Social and Recreational Activities</i></b>	
<b>Social Gatherings</b>	Parties, group gatherings, weddings, funerals, other social functions
<b>Places of Worship</b>	Religious services and other events / activities at places of worship
<p><sup>a</sup> COVID-19 clusters in long term care and other healthcare settings are summarized in the <b>State of Hawai'i Weekly COVID-19 Clusters in Healthcare Settings Report</b>. Additionally, a long-term care table is included in the Disease Outbreak Control Division COVID-19 Operations Report weekly on Wednesdays.</p> <p><sup>b</sup> Specific settings included in the reference table may not be exhaustive for the category.</p>	

## COVID-19 Cluster Tables

## City &amp; County of Honolulu

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

December 17, 2020

Exposure Category	Clusters (#)	Total Cases (#)	Cases Associated with Primary Setting (#)	Linked Cases Outside Primary Setting (#)
<i>Congregate Settings</i>				
<b>Correctional Facilities</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1035</b>	<b>978</b>	<b>57</b>
<b>Educational Settings</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>
<i>Shelters</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>
<i>Food Service, Production, and Distribution</i>				
<i>Bars &amp; Nightclubs</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>
<i>Food Suppliers</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>
<b>Restaurants</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>12</b>
<i>Occupational Settings</i>				
<i>Construction &amp; Industrial</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>
<i>Other Occupational Settings</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>
<i>Travel, Lodging, &amp; Tourism</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>
<i>Social and Recreational Activities</i>				
<i>Social Gatherings</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>
<b>Places of Worship</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Gyms</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>16</b>
<i>Other</i>				
<b>Other: Athletic Competition</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>

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

December 17, 2020

Exposure Category	Clusters (#)	Total Cases (#)	Cases Associated with Primary Setting (#)	Linked Cases Outside Primary Setting (#)
<i>Congregate Settings</i>				
<i>Correctional Facilities</i>	0	0	0	0
<i>Educational Settings</i>	0	0	0	0
<i>Shelters</i>	0	0	0	0
<i>Food Service, Production, and Distribution</i>				
<b>Bars &amp; Nightclubs</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>10</b>	10	0
<i>Food Suppliers</i>	0	0	0	0
<b>Restaurants</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>27</b>	23	4
<i>Occupational Settings</i>				
<i>Construction &amp; Industrial</i>	0	0	0	0
<i>Other Occupational Settings</i>	0	0	0	0
<i>Travel, Lodging, &amp; Tourism</i>	0	0	0	0
<i>Social and Recreational Activities</i>				
<b>Social Gatherings</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>22</b>	21	1
<i>Places of Worship</i>	0	0	0	0
<i>Gyms</i>	0	0	0	0
<i>Other</i>				
<i>Other:</i>	0	0	0	0

**Hawai'i County****COVID-19 Clusters Under Investigation in Last 14 Days by Exposure Setting**

December 17, 2020

Exposure Category	Clusters (#)	Total Cases (#)	Cases Associated with Primary Setting (#)	Linked Cases Outside Primary Setting (#)
<i>Congregate Settings</i>				
<i>Correctional Facilities</i>	0	0	0	0
<i>Educational Settings</i>	0	0	0	0
<i>Shelters</i>	0	0	0	0
<i>Food Service, Production, and Distribution</i>				
<i>Bars &amp; Nightclubs</i>	0	0	0	0
<i>Food Suppliers</i>	0	0	0	0
<b>Restaurants</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>
<i>Occupational Settings</i>				
<i>Construction &amp; Industrial</i>	0	0	0	0
<i>Other Occupational Settings</i>	0	0	0	0
<i>Travel, Lodging, &amp; Tourism</i>	0	0	0	0
<i>Social and Recreational Activities</i>				
<i>Social Gatherings</i>	0	0	0	0
<i>Places of Worship</i>	0	0	0	0
<i>Gyms</i>	0	0	0	0
<i>Other</i>				
<i>Other:</i>	0	0	0	0

**Kauai County****– No COVID-19 Clusters Under Investigation in Last 14 Days –**