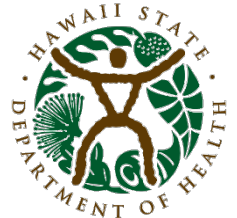




# State of Hawai'i

## Weekly COVID-19 Cluster Report

### March 25, 2021



#### Key Updates: Investigating Spillover Clusters

- When new cases of COVID-19 are reported to the Hawai'i Department of Health (DOH), it's up to disease investigators to evaluate where and how transmission happened. This process helps DOH understand who is at higher risk of being exposed and which activities are riskier than others. Sometimes this process is simple; for example, if someone stays home and is only visited by one person who recently tested positive, it is easy to determine where transmission most likely occurred. Other times, determining how transmission occurred is more difficult. For example, a waiter and his wife, an office worker, both test positive for COVID-19. When talking to the waiter, his wife, and their close contacts, the disease investigators find out there are several people from both workplaces also testing positive. These complicated cases require the investigator to understand the timing of when people became sick, what exposures they may have had, and other factors. Sometimes it is discovered that transmission occurred somewhere other than where it was first assumed to have occurred. For instance, two children who go to the same school test positive, but investigation later determines that transmission most likely occurred at a birthday party. In this scenario, one cluster **"spills over"** into another.
- DOH Investigators are currently investigating a cluster in a Maui middle school that meets this "spillover" description. This school cluster illustrates why identifying a cluster doesn't necessarily mean transmission has occurred. All the cases in the school cluster to date can be linked to source cases in their households that belong to two other clusters, one in a large faith-based setting and another among hotel employees. Thus, the numbers represent cases who are being counted twice in separate clusters. This report includes the school because investigations are on-going to evaluate whether any further transmission could have occurred in the school setting. Even though cases are frequently identified in students or staff at Hawaii schools, transmission on K-12 school campuses has been rare. A study of 17 rural Wisconsin schools found that among 191 cases identified in students and staff members, only seven (3.7%) cases, all among students, were linked to in-school transmission. They concluded that with masking requirements and student cohorting, transmission risk within schools appeared low.[COVID-19 Cases and Transmission in 17 K–12 Schools — Wood County, Wisconsin, August 31–November 29, 2020 | MMWR (cdc.gov)] The cluster associated with the large, faith-based setting described above is also linked to a cluster in a smaller faith-based setting, yet another instance of cluster "spillover." HDOH recommends **universal masking and physical distancing should be strictly followed in worship settings**, as for other activities that increase the degree of mixing across multiple groups or settings.
- With increasing numbers of visitors to the state and more hospitality industry employees returning to work, clusters in hotel and accommodation settings are of concern. DOH Investigators are currently investigating **three clusters in the state associated with hotel and accommodation settings**, involving a total of fifteen cases so far. All cases identified have been among hotel employees. Among the three clusters reported this week, all cases are residents, one with recent **interisland** travel history. No visitors were identified in the clusters, and no close contact with visitors was reported. In at least one instance, noncompliance to masking requirements was observed in the environment. As with other industries, **social interactions among coworkers** at or outside of work are the most common link found between cases in hospitality industry settings.

## 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:

**Three (3)** 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).

**\*\* This definition has been updated from two (2) or more confirmed or probable cases of SARS-CoV-2 to **three (3)** or more confirmed or probable cases of SARS-CoV-2 effective January 1, 2021. This change was made to reduce "noise" related to sporadic cases that may occur in the same setting, especially when community case rates are high, and is reflected in the county-specific tables beginning with the January 21, 2021 report. \*\***

**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>
<i>Congregate Settings</i>	
<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
<i>Food Service, Production, and Distribution</i>	
<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
<i>Occupational Settings</i>	
<b>Construction &amp; Industrial</b>	Construction and industrial settings, including residential and non-residential construction sites, landscaping companies, 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
<i>Social and Recreational Activities</i>	
<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 <i>State of Hawai'i Weekly COVID-19 Clusters in Healthcare Settings Report</i>. 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 & County of Honolulu

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

March 25, 2021

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
<b>Educational Settings</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>4</b>
<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>2</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>8</b>
<i>Occupational Settings</i>				
<b>Construction &amp; Industrial</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>
<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

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

March 25, 2021

Exposure Category	Clusters (#)	Total Cases (#)	Cases Associated with Primary Setting (#)	Linked Cases Outside Primary Setting (#)
<i>Congregate Settings</i>				
<b>Correctional Facilities</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Educational Settings</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</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>				
<b>Bars &amp; Nightclubs</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Food Suppliers</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>
<i>Restaurants</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>
<i>Occupational Settings</i>				
<i>Construction &amp; Industrial</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>
<b>Other Occupational Settings</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Travel, Lodging, &amp; Tourism</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>3</b>
<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>25</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>2</b>
<i>Gyms</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>
<i>Other</i>				
<b>Other: Cleaning Services</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>6</b>

**Hawai'i County**

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

**Kauai County**

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