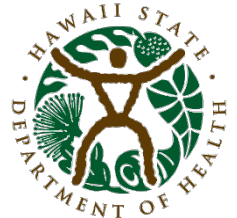




State of Hawai'i

Weekly COVID-19 Cluster Report

March 4, 2021



Key Updates: COVID-19 B.1.1.7. Variant Cases in Hawai'i

- COVID-19 is a coronavirus, a type of virus named for the crown-like spikes on their surfaces. Like other viruses, COVID-19 mutates over time into slightly different versions of the virus. These different versions are referred to as **COVID-19 variants**. The Hawai'i State Department of Health analyzes COVID-19 specimens found in the state to identify any new variants. When a variant case is identified, the detailed information collected from case investigation and contact tracing is combined with the genomic analysis to help determine if the new variant spreads more easily, causes more severe illness, or changes how effective existing COVID-19 vaccines are against it.
- In late 2020, the United Kingdom identified a COVID-19 variant called B.1.1.7 with a large number of mutations. The **B.1.1.7 variant** of COVID-19 is believed to spread more easily than other variants and has now been detected in many states and countries. The Hawai'i Department of Health's State Laboratories Division confirmed the presence of the B.1.1.7 variant in Hawai'i on February 5, 2021.
- To date, **six (6)** cases of COVID-19 in Hawai'i have been confirmed to have the B.1.1.7 variant. All were Oahu residents without any recent travel. The six cases represented **two households**. In both, all individuals within the household tested positive for COVID-19 and were confirmed to have the B.1.1.7 variant. No links or common exposures were found between the two households and an infection source was not identified for either household.
 - **Household 1** contained two adults and two children. Both adults experienced mild symptoms starting in mid-January. Both children tested positive for COVID-19 a few days following the onset of symptoms in the adults, but neither child ever developed symptoms themselves. During the investigation, it was determined that both children attended preschool while potentially infectious. Working with preschool staff, DOH disease investigators identified **38 close contacts**, notified all of their exposure, provided quarantine guidance, and recommended testing. All close contacts quarantined for 14 days and 35 of the 38 were also tested for COVID-19 (all tested negative). The investigation found **no additional cases** associated with any members of the household.
 - **Household 2** contained two adults who experienced mild to moderate symptoms beginning in late January. Both individuals worked while potentially infectious, however one primarily worked remotely and the other reported **strict adherence to physical distancing and masking policies set by the employer**. DOH disease investigators worked with the employers of both adults on contact tracing, quarantine guidance, and providing testing recommendations for staff. **No additional cases** associated with the two individuals were identified at workplaces or elsewhere.
- The Hawai'i State Department of Health recommends the same precautions and behaviors for the B.1.1.7 variant of COVID-19 as are recommended for prevention of COVID-19 in general. Specifically, individuals are encouraged to get vaccinated when eligible and continue taking everyday actions such as wearing masks, physical distancing, washing hands frequently, and staying home when sick.
 - More information on how to protect yourself, your family, and your community from COVID-19 can be found at the **Hawai'i COVID-19 website**: <https://hawaiiicovid19.com/everyday-prevention/>

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.

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	Refers to a case: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting clinical criteria AND epidemiologic linkage with no confirmatory laboratory testing performed for SARS-CoV-2 <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting presumptive laboratory evidence <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting vital records criteria with no confirmatory laboratory evidence for SARS-CoV-2.
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
<i>Congregate Settings</i>	
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
<i>Food Service, Production, and Distribution</i>	
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
<i>Occupational Settings</i>	
Construction & Industrial	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
Other Occupational Settings	Offices, retail establishments, first responders
Travel, Lodging, & Tourism	Domestic / international / interisland travel, lodging, cruise ships, other tourism
<i>Social and Recreational Activities</i>	
Social Gatherings	Parties, group gatherings, weddings, funerals, other social functions
Places of Worship	Religious services and other events / activities at places of worship
<p>^a 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 <i>Disease Outbreak Control Division COVID-19 Operations Report</i> weekly on Wednesdays.</p> <p>^b 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 2, 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
Educational Settings	1	13	12	1
<i>Shelters</i>	0	0	0	0
<i>Food Service, Production, and Distribution</i>				
<i>Bars & Nightclubs</i>	0	0	0	0
Food Suppliers	1	8	3	5
<i>Restaurants</i>	0	0	0	0
<i>Occupational Settings</i>				
<i>Construction & Industrial</i>	0	0	0	0
<i>Other Occupational Settings</i>	0	0	0	0
<i>Travel, Lodging, & 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>				
Other: Retail	1	3	3	0

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

March 2, 2021

Exposure Category	Clusters (#)	Total Cases (#)	Cases Associated with Primary Setting (#)	Linked Cases Outside Primary Setting (#)
<i>Congregate Settings</i>				
Correctional Facilities	1	58	58	0
<i>Educational Settings</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>
<i>Shelters</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>
<i>Food Service, Production, and Distribution</i>				
Bars & Nightclubs	1	12	9	3
<i>Food Suppliers</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>
<i>Restaurants</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>
<i>Occupational Settings</i>				
<i>Construction & 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>
Travel, Lodging, & Tourism	2	15	15	0
<i>Social and Recreational Activities</i>				
<i>Social Gatherings</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>
<i>Places of Worship</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>
<i>Gyms</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>
<i>Other</i>				
<i>Other:</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>

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 –