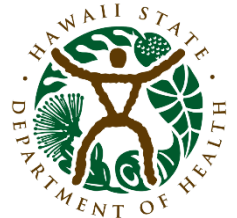




# State of Hawai'i

## Weekly COVID-19 Cluster Report

April 1, 2021



### Key Updates: Investigating and Preventing COVID-19 Clusters in Places of Worship

- Investigating and preventing COVID-19 clusters in churches, temples, and other places of worship can be challenging. At the same time, religious activities are important sources of community, social, and emotional support during difficult times. As a result, Hawai'i State Department of Health (DOH) Disease Investigators **work collaboratively with religious leaders and congregations** during cluster investigations in these settings to help them conduct religious services and associated activities safely, in ways that reduce or eliminate the risk of COVID-19 transmission to participants. Examples from past cluster investigations are outlined below.
  - Following a COVID-19 cluster investigation in Fall 2020, one church on Oahu worked with DOH Disease Investigators and Public Health Educators to ensure that they were following **best practices in prevention of COVID-19 transmission during religious activities**. Modifications were made in response, and the church has not experienced any outbreaks of COVID-19 since then. Church leadership recently worked with DOH partners to employ their lessons learned in COVID-19 prevention to host COVID-19 vaccination events.
  - Another church on Oahu worked with DOH Disease Investigators to set up and encourage participation in **virtual religious services** in response to a COVID-19 cluster investigation in early 2021. In addition to virtual services, church leaders also organized **educational outreach sessions** for the church community via Zoom. These sessions allowed congregants to speak directly with DOH Disease Investigators to ask questions and learn about available resources from DOH and other organizations. The educational sessions were so well-received that two congregants volunteered to create and be featured in Public Service Announcements (PSAs) to assist in getting vital COVID-19 information out to others in their community.
  - Following a COVID-19 cluster investigation in February 2021, a church on Maui also worked with DOH Disease Investigators to set up virtual religious services and hold educational information sessions. In addition to providing prevention guidance and educational information, DOH Disease Investigators connected church leaders with Maui County Emergency Management, who helped the church obtain **personal protective equipment (PPE), hand sanitizer, cleaning supplies, and food assistance** for church members directly affected by COVID-19.
- The Hawai'i State Department of Health (DOH) recommends that religious leaders and congregations employ the following strategies to reduce risk of COVID-19 during worship-related activities:
  - Host **virtual, remote, or drive-in religious services**.
  - Limit in-person gathering to **groups of fewer than 10 persons** and hold activities **outdoors** or in buildings with **high levels of ventilation**.
  - Provide **sanitation stations** in and around areas where worship-related activities take place.
  - **Wear masks and limit activities that require masks to be removed**, such as eating or drinking.
  - Use **physical distancing** to reduce close contact and **avoid shaking hands, hugging, and kissing** persons not in your household.
  - Employ **additional mitigation strategies** (e.g., consistent use of masks with two layers of fabric and snug fit around nose and mouth, physical barriers) **during higher risk activities such as carpooling and choir practice**.
  - Help DOH investigate COVID-19 cases within your religious community by **providing any requested information as quickly and completely as possible**.

## 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> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>OR</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meeting presumptive laboratory evidence</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>OR</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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 <i>Disease Outbreak Control Division COVID-19 Operations Report</i> 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

April 1, 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>1</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>2</b>
<i>Shelters</i>	0	0	0	0
<i>Food Service, Production, and Distribution</i>				
<i>Bars &amp; Nightclubs</i>	0	0	0	0
<b>Food Suppliers</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Restaurants</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>9</b>
<i>Occupational Settings</i>				
<b>Construction &amp; Industrial</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>8</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***April 1, 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>98</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>0</b>
<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>				
<i>Bars &amp; Nightclubs</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>
<b>Food Suppliers</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>8</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>13</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Travel, Lodging, &amp; Tourism</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>1</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>48</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>4</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>42</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>7</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 –