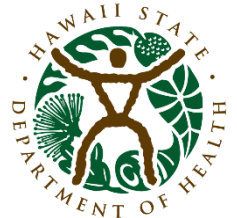




# State of Hawai'i

## Weekly COVID-19 Cluster Report

April 22, 2021



### Key Updates:

The **food service industry** has proven to be a high-risk occupation during the COVID-19 pandemic, with clusters frequently detected in restaurants, bars, and other food production settings. Risk is not equally distributed within food service settings. Clusters are much more frequently detected among employees than among patrons. Moreover, employees who work in the **“back of the house”** have different risk factors for infection than those who work in the “front of the house.” “Front of the house” employees such as servers, hosts/hostesses, and bussers come in frequent contact with the public. However, “back of the house” employees such as cooks and other kitchen staff often work in more **cramped conditions** and spend longer **cumulative periods of time in close contact** with their coworkers than their “front of the house” counterparts. Working for long periods over a **hot cook line** can also make it difficult to fully comply with mask mandates. If a few employees call off work, short-staffing can add further risk as remaining employees may be forced to **cross-cover multiple roles** leading to increased mixing among staff, and less time to ensure appropriate protocols for employee screening, personal protective equipment and hand hygiene are followed.

In March and April of 2021, the Hawai'i State Department of Health investigated two clusters among “back of the house” restaurant employees that illustrate the challenges of controlling spread of COVID-19 in these settings. In one cluster, a kitchen manager cross-covered multiple employees and worked a double-shift because of a staffing shortage, and was later determined to be infectious during this time period. This ultimately led to **exposure and suspected transmission in both the cooking and food preparation areas. Mask usage by employees was not consistent** at all times because of the heat in the cooking areas. The staffing shortage also caused delays in contact tracing because the initial staffing schedules provided to the Department of Health did not represent the actual work hours employees who were pulled from their usual stations and schedules to cover other roles.

Another restaurant was just about to reach the “all-clear” mark after being under investigation for a small cluster tied to social interactions among “front of the house” employees, when a new and apparently unrelated “back of the house” cluster was identified. **An employee had reported to work feeling unwell, but because no fever was documented, was permitted to continue working.** This employee's supervisor then became ill and tested positive, which prompted the employee who had been ill first to also get tested. Three additional cases were subsequently identified, 17 staff who worked the same shift were quarantined, and the kitchen was temporarily closed. In this scenario, a more proactive approach to excluding symptomatic employees from work might have prevented transmission from occurring, and closure of the kitchen could possibly have been avoided.

Working in the “back of the house” at a food service establishment presents particular challenges for COVID-19 prevention. Ensuring **adequate staffing** and implementing **rigorous symptom screening** policies can help reduce risk. **Clear documentation of schedule changes** and provision of accurate employee time logs to the health department is critical for timely and effective contact tracing. Because the physical layout of restaurant kitchens and the nature of prep and cooking work make physical distancing difficult, other **mitigation strategies, such as engineering controls, adequate ventilation and proper mask usage, need to be applied in combination** to the greatest extent possible. **Vaccination will also serve as a key strategy** in preventing transmission of COVID-19 among food service workers.

## 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 <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 22, 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>3</b>	<b>23</b>	18	5
<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>6</b>	4	2
<i>Occupational Settings</i>				
<b>Construction &amp; Industrial</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>11</b>	8	3
<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>27</b>	21	6
<i>Places of Worship</i>	0	0	0	0
<i>Gyms</i>	0	0	0	0
<i>Other</i>				
<b>Other:</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>61</b>	55	6

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

April 22, 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>5</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>10</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>18</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Restaurants</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
<i>Occupational Settings</i>				
<i>Construction &amp; Industrial</i>	0	0	0	0
<i>Other Occupational Settings</i>	0	0	0	0
<b>Travel, Lodging, &amp; Tourism</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>39</b>
<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

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

April 22, 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
<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
<i>Restaurants</i>	0	0	0	0
<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>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Places of Worship</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<i>Gyms</i>	0	0	0	0
<i>Other</i>				
<b>Other</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>0</b>

**Kauai County**

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