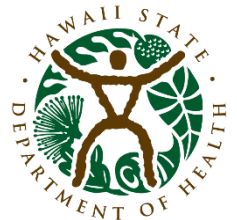




# State of Hawai'i

## Weekly COVID-19 Cluster Report

May 11, 2021



Certain activities and occupational settings have proven to be high-risk during the COVID-19 pandemic, with clusters reported among **singers and performing artists**. The risk of transmission is increased during indoor practice sessions and performances, particularly in settings with poor air ventilation, limited space to implement recommended protocols for social distancing, and lack of consistent mask use.

In March 2021, the Hawai'i State Department of Health investigated a **cluster of COVID-19 cases from a luau production company** on Maui. The index case was a dancer, who tested positive for SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. Two (13%) of 15 employees tested positive; both were also dancers. In addition, one household contact tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 for a total of **four epidemiologically linked cases**.

Although there were visual cues for dancers to stay the recommended 6 feet apart backstage, several risk factors for transmission were identified. The **dancers did their make-up unmasked, changed costumes, and spent >15 minutes in dressing areas**. Divider curtains were used in the dressing area to create separate spaces; however, the enclosures limited airflow. Recommendations were made to remove the divider curtains to increase airflow, designate additional dressing areas to increase distancing, do make-up at home to decrease time spent unmasked, and minimize close interaction while dressing. Additionally, team meetings were conducted in smaller groups instead of with the entire cast. **No additional cases were reported after the recommended mitigation measures were enacted.**

In April 2021, the Hawai'i State Department of Health investigated a cluster of **25 COVID-19 cases associated with a performing arts center** on Oahu. During their infectious periods, three adults who tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 interacted with performing arts students. Three dance students, adolescents to young adults, had symptoms consistent with COVID-19 but were not tested (i.e., probable cases). The dance students interacted with two of the adults at each practice session for approximately 15 minutes and less than the recommended 6 feet of distance. Masks were reported have been worn by the dance instructors and dance students.

The third adult, a **vocal instructor**, taught lessons at the performing arts center and private lessons from their home. During their infectious period, the vocal instructor taught nine students; seven (78%) tested positive for SARS-CoV-2. Nineteen confirmed COVID-19 cases were associated with the vocal instructor: one household member, seven students, and 11 household members of students. **No contacts who were fully vaccinated tested positive for SARS-CoV-2.** The instructor wore a mask during vocal lessons but took off the mask when demonstrating proper singing technique. Students did not wear masks when they sang. Inconsistent mask use by the instructor and lack of mask use by students during vocal lessons resulted in widespread transmission of SARS-CoV-2 to students and their household members. This cluster of COVID-19 cases is consistent with other investigations demonstrating that SARS-CoV-2 can be highly transmissible during singing. [High SARS-CoV-2 Attack Rate Following Exposure at a Choir Practice — Skagit County, Washington, March 2020](#)

**Vaccination is the primary strategy to prevent COVID-19 cases in high-risk activities and 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 <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

May 11, 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
<b>Food Suppliers</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Restaurants</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>27</b>
<i>Occupational Settings</i>				
<b>Construction &amp; Industrial</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Other Occupational Settings</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>19</b>
<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
<b>Football Tournaments</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>1</b>
<i>Other</i>				
<b>Other:</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>23</b>

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

May 11, 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>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0</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>11</b>	<b>8</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
<b>Travel, Lodging, &amp; Tourism</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>22</b>
<i>Social and Recreational Activities</i>				
<b>Social Gatherings</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Places of Worship</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Football Tournaments</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>2</b>
<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

May 11, 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>5</b>	<b>3</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
<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>				
<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****COVID-19 Clusters Under Investigation in Last 14 Days by Exposure Setting**

May 11, 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	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>2</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>4</b>
<i>Occupational Settings</i>				
<b>Construction &amp; Industrial</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Other Occupational Settings</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>
<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