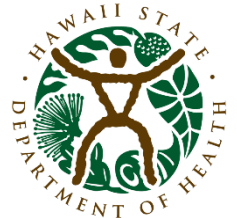




# State of Hawai'i

## Weekly COVID-19 Cluster Report

May 20, 2021



### Key Updates

**Construction workers, classified as essential workers**, often travel by plane to remote locations and by high-density vehicle to and from local work sites. Their occupations can require sustained physical exertion and working in uncomfortable environments including enclosed spaces with poor ventilation and tight spaces with limited ability to physically distance. Because construction workers are classified as essential personnel, they are exempt from Safe Travels quarantine requirements designed to prevent COVID-19 transmission.

In April 2021, the Hawai'i State Department of Health investigated a **cluster of 26 COVID-19 cases associated with a construction site** on Oahu. Three companies had employees at the site; all reported workers who tested positive for SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. Ten confirmed and probable cases were identified among 35 workers (attack rate: 29%). One worker was hospitalized. Among household members, 16 additional cases (10 confirmed and 6 probable) were identified.

Masks were required on the job site; however, **workers reported hot temperatures, poor ventilation, and removing their masks due to uncomfortable conditions** inside the building. In addition, workers reported not being able to physically distance the recommended 6 feet while working and not practicing social distancing during lunch. Inconsistent or lack of mask use and distancing resulted in widespread transmission of SARS-CoV-2 among workers and their household members.

The Hawai'i State Department of Health is currently investigating **a cluster of 16 COVID-19 cases associated with hospital construction** on Molokai. The first case identified was a construction worker who commuted to Molokai and tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 on May 10. The hospital and three construction companies were notified, and employee screening and testing was initiated. Five of 16 construction workers tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 (attack rate: 31%). One hospital employee with exposure to the construction workers tested positive. Ten close contacts have tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 or have symptoms consistent with COVID-19.

**The cluster size is expected to increase due to wider community transmission.**

Hospital construction has been suspended. A work site risk assessment is ongoing. Each company submitted COVID-19 plans to the hospital and used a smartphone-based application to assess each worker's health condition. Cases reported mask use at the work site, but there is growing evidence that the **risk of exposure might have been in social settings**.

Healthcare workers were prioritized for vaccination in Phase 1a. Essential frontline workers, including construction workers, were prioritized for vaccination in Phase 1c. **Vaccination of all essential workers in Phases 1a through 1c would have prevented in these clusters.**

## 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 20, 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>23</b>	20	3
<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
<b>Restaurants</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>9</b>	6	3
<i>Occupational Settings</i>				
<b>Construction &amp; Industrial</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>37</b>	33	4
<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
<b>Football Tournaments</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>17</b>	16	1
<i>Other</i>				
<b>Other</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>81</b>	39	43

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

May 20, 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>11</b>	6	5
<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>25</b>	21	4
<b>Restaurants</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>8</b>	5	3
<i>Occupational Settings</i>				
<b>Construction &amp; Industrial</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>19</b>	8	11
<i>Other Occupational Settings</i>	0	0	0	0
<b>Travel, Lodging &amp; Tourism</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>33</b>	32	1
<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>19</b>	16	3
<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 20, 2021*

<b>Exposure Category</b>	<b>Clusters (#)</b>	<b>Total Cases (#)</b>	<b>Cases Associated with Primary Setting (#)</b>	<b>Linked Cases Outside Primary Setting (#)</b>
<i>Congregate Settings</i>				
<i>Correctional Facilities</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>
<b>Educational Settings</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>
<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>
<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 &amp; 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>
<i>Travel, Lodging &amp; Tourism</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>
<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>

**Kauai County****COVID-19 Clusters Under Investigation in Last 14 Days by Exposure Setting***May 20, 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
<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>2</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</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