

State of Hawai'i Weekly COVID-19 Cluster Report



July 22, 2021

Like national trends, the State of Hawai'i is experiencing a resurgence in COVID-19 cases. Case counts have more than doubled in the last 2 weeks compared to the previous 2-week period. Although 59.4% of the state population is fully vaccinated, SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, is spreading in the community almost entirely among unvaccinated residents. Factors contributing to the surge in COVID-19 cases are the highly transmissible Delta variant, mainland travel-related cases among Hawai'i residents, Fourth of July holiday gatherings, and relaxation of prevention measures such as indoor masking and limiting gathering size. Travel-related cases among Hawai'i residents account for 20% of all cases in July to date. Large clusters make up a smaller proportion of current COVID-19 cases. Cases are now more community wide. People can protect themselves by continuing to use personal prevention measures. All eligible persons should get vaccinated, and everyone should wear a mask in indoor public places, physically distance, and avoid crowds.

Since May 2021, there had been a decline in clusters associated with retail establishments; food suppliers; and educational settings. Settings that have continued to be frequently associated with clusters of COVID-19 cases include restaurants; construction, industrial, and other occupational settings; travel, lodging, and tourism; places of worship; and social gatherings. The common risk factors among these settings are unvaccinated individuals, no or inconsistent mask use indoors, and limited physical distancing. Clusters associated with social gatherings and places of worship have shared risk factors such as unvaccinated individuals, eating and drinking, lengthy socializing, and no or inconsistent mask use indoors. Additional risk factors that have contributed to clusters of COVID-19 cases in these settings and the broader community include people not isolating when sick; not getting tested when they have symptoms consistent with COVID-19; not quarantining or monitoring for symptoms when exposed to a person with COVID-19 infection; and not using prevention measures consistently.

People with COVID-19 infection can have mild or no symptoms. People with COVID-19 infection also can be infectious before they develop symptoms. These people can expose others and spread disease without knowing it. All people who have symptoms consistent with COVID-19 and unvaccinated people who have been exposed to a person with COVID-19 should get tested. Testing identifies people infected with SARS-CoV-2, which is vital to stop COVID-19 spread in the community. All people who are 12 years of age and older should get vaccinated. Vaccination is the most effective way to stop COVID-19. To protect children who are not currently eligible for COVID-19 vaccination, all adults who work with children and all eligible people in households with children should get vaccinated.

Vaccination is safe, effective, and available at no cost. #HIGotVaccinated

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: Meeting clinical criteria AND epidemiologic linkage with no confirmatory laboratory testing performed for SARS-CoV-2 OR Meeting presumptive laboratory evidence OR 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			
Congregate Settings				
Correctional Facilities	Jails, prisons, detention centers, correctional treatment centers / "sober living" centers, transitional correctional facilities or homes / "halfway houses" for adults and adolescents			
Educational Settings	Preschools, K-12, and institutes of higher education, school-based athletics, after school programs			
Shelters	Facilities providing short or long-term sheltering and other social services for individuals and families and groups without access to permanent housing due to homelessness, disaster, emergency, violence, or other circumstances			
F	ood Service, Production, and Distribution			
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			
	Occupational Settings			
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			
	Social and Recreational Activities			
Social Gatherings	Parties, group gatherings, weddings, funerals, other social functions			
Places of Worship	Religious services and other events / activities at places of worship			
9 60 40 40 41 44 4 5				

^a COVID-19 clusters in long term care and other healthcare settings are summarized in the **State of Hawai'i Weekly COVID-19 Clusters in Healthcare Settings Report.** Additionally, a long-term care table is included in the Disease Outbreak Control Division COVID-19 Operations Report weekly on Wednesdays.

^b Specific settings included in the reference table may not be exhaustive for the category.

COVID-19 Cluster Tables

City & County of Honolulu

Exposure Category	Clusters (#)	Total Cases (#)	Cases Associated with Primary Setting (#)	Linked Cases Outside Primary Setting (#)			
Congregate Settings							
Correctional Facilities	0	0	0	0			
Educational Settings	0	0	0	0			
Shelters	0	0	0	0			
	Food Serv	rice, Production, o	and Distribution				
Bars & Nightclubs	1	31	30	1			
Food Suppliers	0	0	0	0			
Restaurants	2	14	8	6			
	Occupational Settings						
Construction & Industrial	0	0	0	0			
Other Occupational Settings	1	6	5	1			
Travel, Lodging & Tourism	0	0	0	0			
Social and Recreational Activities							
Social Gatherings	1	10	5	5			
Places of Worship	0	0	0	0			
Gyms	0	0	0	0			
Other							
Other	4	39	35	4			

Maui County

Exposure Category	Clusters (#)	Total Cases (#)	Cases Associated with Primary Setting (#)	Linked Cases Outside Primary Setting (#)	
Congregate Settings					
Correctional Facilities	0	0	0	0	
Educational Settings	0	0	0	0	
Shelters	0	0	0	0	
	Food Servic	e, Production, an	d Distribution		
Bars & Nightclubs	0	0	0	0	
Food Suppliers	0	0	0	0	
Restaurants	0	0	0	0	
	O	ccupational Sett	ings		
Construction & Industrial	0	0	0	0	
Other Occupational Settings	0	0	0	0	
Travel, Lodging & Tourism	0	0	0	0	
Social and Recreational Activities					
Social Gatherings	1	8	5	3	
Places of Worship	0	0	0	0	
Gyms	0	0	0	0	
Other					
Other	0	0	0	0	

Hawai'i County

Exposure Category	Clusters (#)	Total Cases (#)	Cases Associated with Primary Setting (#)	Linked Cases Outside Primary Setting (#)	
Congregate Settings					
Correctional Facilities	1	286	279	7	
Educational Settings	0	0	0	0	
Shelters	0	0	0	0	
	Food Service	e, Production, ar	nd Distribution		
Bars & Nightclubs	0	0	0	0	
Food Suppliers	0	0	0	0	
Restaurants	0	0	0	0	
	o	ccupational Sett	ings		
Construction & Industrial	0	0	0	0	
Other Occupational Settings	0	0	0	0	
Travel, Lodging & Tourism	0	0	0	0	
Social and Recreational Activities					
Social Gatherings	0	0	0	0	
Places of Worship	1	20	16	4	
Gyms	0	0	0	0	
Other					
Other	0	0	0	0	

Kauai County

Exposure Category	Clusters (#)	Total Cases (#)	Cases Associated with Primary Setting (#)	Linked Cases Outside Primary Setting (#)
	(Congregate Setti	ngs	
Correctional Facilities	0	0	0	0
Educational Settings	1	4	4	0
Shelters	1	7	7	0
	Food Service	e, Production, an	nd Distribution	
Bars & Nightclubs	0	0	0	0
Food Suppliers	0	0	0	0
Restaurants	0	0	0	0
	O	ccupational Sett	ings	
Construction & Industrial	0	0	0	0
Other Occupational Settings	0	0	0	0
Travel, Lodging & Tourism	0	0	0	0
	Social d	and Recreational	Activities	
Social Gatherings	1	4	4	0
Places of Worship	1	7	6	1
Gyms	0	0	0	0
Other				
Other	0	0	0	0