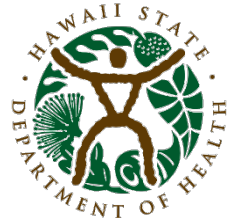




# State of Hawai'i

## Weekly COVID-19 Cluster Report

July 8, 2021



Clusters related to **employee work breaks and socializing** outside of work have been consistently reported during the COVID-19 pandemic. CDC recommends that employers and restaurant owners close shared employee spaces such as break rooms. If it's not practical to close break rooms, CDC recommends coordinating staggered breaks among unvaccinated employees, requiring mask use and social distancing (>6 feet), and cleaning spaces between use. Group events, gatherings, and meetings should be avoided if proper social distancing (>6 feet) cannot be maintained. [CDC COVID-19 Considerations for Restaurant and Bar Operators](#).

In mid-June 2021, the Hawai'i State Department of Health investigated a **cluster of four COVID-19 cases among food service workers associated with social gatherings**. Seven food service co-workers attended a weekend outdoor gathering followed by dinner. Three of the coworkers in attendance were diagnosed with SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19 (attack rate: 43%). Co-workers did not wear masks or social distance during the gathering or dinner. One employee, who did not attend the gathering or dinner, was infected with COVID-19 through **workplace exposure**. None of the cases were vaccinated.

In early June 2021, the Hawai'i State Department of Health investigated a **cluster of 14 COVID-19 cases associated with five different social events**. Of the 14 individuals diagnosed with COVID-19, 12 were food service workers from three different restaurants. Eleven of the cases attended at least one of the social events with some overlap in attendance. Each gathering was small (2–5 people) with activities including drinking at a bar, dining in a restaurant, going to a movie theater, and socializing at a private residence. **No one wore masks or socially distanced**. Three cases were among employees who did not attend any of the social gatherings. These employees were exposed while working in the kitchen of one of the restaurants. An **enclosed kitchen with poor ventilation** and **limited ability to physically distance** increased the risk for COVID-19 transmission.

In March 2021, the Hawai'i State Department of Health investigated a **cluster of five COVID-19 cases among restaurant workers associated with work breaks**. The spread of COVID-19 was linked to employees sharing an e-cigarette and sitting in a car during a work break. **None of the cases were vaccinated**. Eighteen co-workers were identified as close contacts and required to quarantine. The restaurant was closed for 13 days because over 80% of the employees were in isolation or quarantine.

The closure of businesses due to COVID-19 clusters results in **negative financial impact** for employees and owners. Workplaces experience **staff shortages** when employees with COVID-19 isolate and co-workers exposed to COVID-19 quarantine. Employees who are fully vaccinated are exempt from the quarantine requirement after exposure to COVID-19 if they are asymptomatic, which minimizes lost work time for employees and workplace disruptions for businesses. To prevent COVID-19 transmission in the workplace, employers should implement safe break protocols for employees such as staggering break times, preventing congregating in common locations, increasing COVID-19 education, and **encouraging employees to get vaccinated**. Employers should consider **using incentives** to encourage vaccination among employees to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

## 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” for adults and adolescents
<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 and other social services for individuals and families 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 <b>State of Hawai'i Weekly COVID-19 Clusters in Healthcare Settings Report</b>. Additionally, a long-term care table is included in the Disease Outbreak Control Division COVID-19 Operations Report 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 July 8, 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>1</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Places of Worship</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>2</b>
<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**

July 8, 2021

Exposure Category	Clusters (#)	Total Cases (#)	Cases Associated with Primary Setting (#)	Linked Cases Outside Primary Setting (#)
<b>Congregate Settings</b>				
<i>Correctional Facilities</i>	0	0	0	0
<b>Educational Settings</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>
<i>Shelters</i>	0	0	0	0
<b>Food Service, Production, and Distribution</b>				
<i>Bars &amp; Nightclubs</i>	0	0	0	0
<i>Food Suppliers</i>	0	0	0	0
<i>Restaurants</i>	0	0	0	0
<b>Occupational Settings</b>				
<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
<b>Social and Recreational Activities</b>				
<i>Social Gatherings</i>	0	0	0	0
<b>Places of Worship</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>
<i>Gyms</i>	0	0	0	0
<b>Other</b>				
<i>Other</i>	0	0	0	0

## Hawai'i County

### COVID-19 Clusters Under Investigation in Last 14 Days by Exposure Setting

July 8, 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>270</b>	<b>263</b>	<b>7</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>
<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>				
<b>Other</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>

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

July 8, 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
<b>Shelters</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>
<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
<b>Places of Worship</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>0</b>
<i>Gyms</i>	0	0	0	0
<i>Other</i>				
<i>Other</i>	0	0	0	0