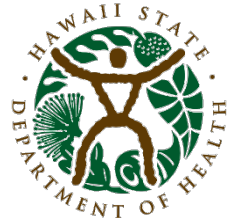




State of Hawai'i

Weekly COVID-19 Cluster Report

August 19, 2021



The State of Hawai'i has recorded a surge in COVID-19 cases since July. **Community transmission** is driving the increased COVID-19 case counts. **Social gatherings** are important venues for connection during these unprecedented times, but mitigation strategies are necessary to keep everyone safe and prevent the spread of COVID-19. CDC provides guidance for both small and large gatherings. Everyone should wear a mask correctly and consistently indoors, avoid crowds and poorly ventilated indoor spaces, physically distance from people who do not live with you, and get vaccinated ([CDC Updated COVID-19 Guidance](#)).

In July 2021, the Hawai'i State Department of Health investigated a **cluster of 23 COVID-19 cases associated with a concert** at a bar on Oahu. Among employees, band members, and concert attendees, 16 tested positive for SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. Only four (25%) of the 16 cases were fully vaccinated. Seven secondary cases were also identified among household members; none were vaccinated. The event was held indoors with many attendees. **Intermittent mask wearing** and very **little physical distancing** was reported. Band members **performed while sick** and shared microphones and instruments, which probably contributed to COVID-19 spread. None of the band members were vaccinated. This concert cluster has been **linked to two other COVID-19 clusters**, one at a workplace and one at another concert.

In July 2021, the Hawai'i State Department of Health investigated a **cluster of 17 COVID-19 cases associated with a wedding reception** on Oahu. Of the 28 people in attendance, 12 tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 (attack rate: 42%). Eight (29%) of 28 attendees were fully vaccinated; four fully vaccinated people tested positive for SARS-CoV-2. Five secondary cases were also identified among household members. Most wedding attendees with COVID-19 infection experienced mild-to-moderate symptoms. Two people experienced severe COVID-19 disease and were hospitalized; one person, who was hospitalized and not vaccinated, died. The wedding reception was held at an indoor banquet hall. A member of the wedding party and their spouse **both had COVID-19 symptoms** and **exposed the bride and groom** during wedding rehearsals held at the same venue. Attendees reported that masks were not correctly and consistently worn during the wedding events and physical distancing was not practiced. One attendee, who later tested positive for COVID-19, reported **traveling to Las Vegas** before attending the wedding rehearsals. However, they did not attend the wedding or reception due to COVID-19 symptoms. Family and friends who attended the wedding events expressed a **false sense of security** because they knew everyone in attendance.

Vaccination is the most effective way to prevent community transmission of COVID-19. Community leaders and advocates are encouraged to use their voices and social media presence to educate their communities about the **importance of vaccination**. Recently, the pastor of a church was hospitalized with COVID-19. Many church members had been reluctant to get vaccinated before their pastor's experience. The pastor reached out to the Hawai'i State Department of Health to organize a **pop-up vaccination clinic** for congregation members. To protect our communities, all eligible people (those 12 years of age and older) should get vaccinated, and everyone should correctly and consistently wear a **mask indoors**, **avoid crowds**, **physically distance** (at least 6 feet apart), **stay home if sick**, and **get tested** if you have COVID-19 symptoms or are exposed to someone with COVID-19 infection. Do your part to stop the spread of COVID-19 and keep our **communities healthy and safe**. [#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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting clinical criteria AND epidemiologic linkage with no confirmatory laboratory testing performed for SARS-CoV-2 <li style="text-align: center;">OR • Meeting presumptive laboratory evidence <li style="text-align: center;">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
<i>Congregate Settings</i>	
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
<i>Food Service, Production, and Distribution</i>	
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
<i>Occupational Settings</i>	
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
<i>Social and Recreational Activities</i>	
Social Gatherings	Parties, group gatherings, weddings, funerals, other social functions
Places of Worship	Religious services and other events / activities at places of worship
<p>^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.</p>	
<p>^b 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

August 19, 2021

Exposure Category	Clusters (#)	Total Cases (#)	Cases Associated with Primary Setting (#)	Linked Cases Outside Primary Setting (#)
<i>Congregate Settings</i>				
Correctional Facilities	2	120	115	5
<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>				
Bars & Nightclubs	1	5	5	0
<i>Food Suppliers</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>
Restaurants	10	97	77	20
<i>Occupational Settings</i>				
Construction & Industrial	2	7	6	1
Other Occupational Settings	3	28	20	8
Travel, Lodging & Tourism	1	9	9	0
<i>Social and Recreational Activities</i>				
Social Gatherings	3	23	21	2
<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>

Maui County**COVID-19 Clusters Under Investigation in Last 14 Days by Exposure Setting***August 19, 2021*

Exposure Category	Clusters (#)	Total Cases (#)	Cases Associated with Primary Setting (#)	Linked Cases Outside Primary Setting (#)
<i>Congregate Settings</i>				
Correctional Facilities	1	99	89	10
Educational Settings	2	16	9	7
<i>Shelters</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>
<i>Food Service, Production, and Distribution</i>				
<i>Bars & Nightclubs</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>
Food Suppliers	1	12	9	3
Restaurants	1	5	4	1
<i>Occupational Settings</i>				
Construction & Industrial	1	7	7	0
Other Occupational Settings	5	26	22	4
Travel, Lodging & Tourism	5	19	13	6
<i>Social and Recreational Activities</i>				
Social Gatherings	2	27	21	6
<i>Places of Worship</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>
Gyms	1	9	8	1
<i>Other</i>				
Other	2	12	12	0

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

August 19, 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	1	8	4	4
<i>Shelters</i>	0	0	0	0
<i>Food Service, Production, and Distribution</i>				
<i>Bars & 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 & Industrial</i>	0	0	0	0
Other Occupational Settings	1	8	5	3
<i>Travel, Lodging & 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**

August 19, 2021

Exposure Category	Clusters (#)	Total Cases (#)	Cases Associated with Primary Setting (#)	Linked Cases Outside Primary Setting (#)
<i>Congregate Settings</i>				
Correctional Facilities	1	50	49	1
Educational Settings	1	42	26	16
<i>Shelters</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>
<i>Food Service, Production, and Distribution</i>				
<i>Bars & 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>
Restaurants	1	16	14	2
<i>Occupational Settings</i>				
<i>Construction & 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 & 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>