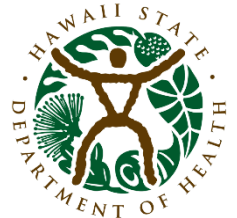




State of Hawai'i

Weekly COVID-19 Cluster Report

September 30, 2021



Workplaces present challenges for public health safety when the presence of COVID-19 is widespread in the community. **Workplace settings** can be crowded or involve frequent interaction among employees, allowing the virus to spread. CDC recommends **workplace prevention strategies** for employers and businesses, which includes the following: vaccination, mask use, improved ventilation, work close contact identification and notification, testing, and cleaning and disinfecting. These mitigation strategies should be implemented in a layered manner to ensure **employee safety** and maintain **healthy business operations**. [CDC COVID-19 Workplace Guidance](#)

In September 2021, the Department of Health investigated a **cluster of 7 COVID-19 cases associated within an industrial work setting** in Maui County. Five employees tested positive for SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19; all five employees were unvaccinated. Two secondary cases were also identified among household members of the employees. The two household cases were in children who were ineligible to get vaccinated. No cases were hospitalized. The first employee with COVID-19 was at work during their **infectious period** and was symptomatic for four days. The sick employee rode in the same truck with other employees, which was probably where the other employees were exposed resulting in **workplace spread**. The business required masks and disinfected work areas every day. However, **poor ventilation** in confined spaces, such as vehicles, increased the risk of transmission despite the other mitigation strategies the business had in place. Of the five employees, three worked while infectious. Although the employees worked in different areas, all employees reported to the main office to clock in and out of shifts each day. The main office is small, which made it difficult to physically distance (stay >6 feet apart) at shift changes. Employers should **stagger shifts** to prevent crowding so employees can safely clock in and out.

In September 2021, the Department of Health investigated a **cluster of 31 COVID-19 cases associated with a transportation service** in Honolulu County. The company reported that 13 employees tested positive for SARS-CoV-2, and two employees had COVID-19 symptoms and were epidemiologically linked to the other employees with COVID-19. Of the 15 employees with COVID-19, only one (7%) was fully vaccinated and one was partially vaccinated. Sixteen secondary cases were also identified among household members; **none were vaccinated**. One unvaccinated case was hospitalized. Most of the employees with COVID-19 worked in a warehouse with rotating shifts and shared equipment. The company did **not effectively coordinate** and **manage quarantine periods** for the employees identified as work close contacts. Close contacts became sick with COVID-19, which resulted in additional transmission in the workplace. Employees who are close contacts **and** who are not vaccinated must **quarantine at home for 10 days** from their last exposure to a person with COVID-19, get tested, and monitor for symptoms. Close contacts are defined as being less than 6 feet apart for 15 minutes or more within a 24-hour period of a person with COVID-19.

To prevent COVID-19 transmission in the workplace, employers should consider offering **paid sick days** so employees do not come to work while infectious or when they are quarantined. Workplaces should enforce **10 days of isolation for employees with COVID-19** and **10 days of quarantine for close contacts** to prevent transmission in the workplace. Employers should also consider using **incentives to encourage vaccination** among employees. COVID-19 vaccines are highly effective at preventing severe disease, hospitalizations, and deaths, including from the Delta variant. Employees who are fully vaccinated **and** do not have symptoms are exempt from quarantine after exposure to COVID-19. Vaccinated employees help prevent **staffing shortages** for businesses. Many businesses are imposing **vaccination requirements** to make **workplaces safer** for employees and customers and **prevent workplace disruptions**. All Hawaii residents and businesses should do their part to help stop the spread of COVID-19. [#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 <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting presumptive laboratory evidence <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 September 30, 2021

Exposure Category	Clusters (#)	Total Cases (#)	Cases Associated with Primary Setting (#)	Linked Cases Outside Primary Setting (#)
<i>Congregate Settings</i>				
Correctional Facilities	1	336	311	25
Educational Settings	1	8	8	0
<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	7	143	77	66
Restaurants	3	16	12	4
<i>Occupational Settings</i>				
Construction & Industrial	2	34	17	17
<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>				
Social Gatherings	1	8	8	0
<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**
September 30, 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	5	45	45	0
<i>Shelters</i>	0	0	0	0
<i>Food Service, Production, and Distribution</i>				
<i>Bars & Nightclubs</i>	0	0	0	0
Food Suppliers	2	13	10	3
Restaurants	1	5	3	2
<i>Occupational Settings</i>				
Construction & Industrial	2	26	21	5
Other Occupational Settings	2	16	13	3
Travel, Lodging & Tourism	6	72	65	7
<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>				
Other	4	92	92	0

Hawai'i County**COVID-19 Clusters Under Investigation in Last 14 Days by Exposure Setting***September 30, 2021*

Exposure Category	Clusters (#)	Total Cases (#)	Cases Associated with Primary Setting (#)	Linked Cases Outside Primary Setting (#)
<i>Congregate Settings</i>				
Correctional Facilities	1	324	312	12
Educational Settings	1	11	7	4
<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>
<i>Restaurants</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>
<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>

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

September 30, 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	2	63	27	36
<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
Restaurants	4	35	25	10
<i>Occupational Settings</i>				
<i>Construction & Industrial</i>	0	0	0	0
Other Occupational Settings	1	8	4	4
<i>Travel, Lodging & Tourism</i>	0	0	0	0
<i>Social and Recreational Activities</i>				
<i>Social Gatherings</i>	0	0	0	0
Places of Worship	1	13	13	0
<i>Gyms</i>	0	0	0	0
<i>Other</i>				
<i>Other</i>	0	0	0	0