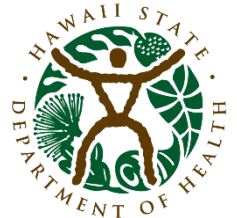




State of Hawai'i

Weekly COVID-19 Cluster Report

November 25, 2021



The opportunity to travel and compete in **sporting competitions** is an exciting time in every player's season. However, the risk of COVID-19 transmission increases substantially at events where crowding, lack of ventilation, and inconsistent mask use occur. To protect the players and spectators of recreational sports, awareness of **essential preventative strategies** should be strengthened so everyone can continue to enjoy these events. For large gatherings, CDC recommends **getting vaccinated**, **avoiding crowded** and **poorly ventilated spaces**, **gathering outdoors** if possible, **wearing a mask** in areas with high COVID-19 case counts, and **social distancing** (> than 6ft). [CDC Large Gathering Recommendations](#)

In October 2021, the Hawai'i District Health Office investigated a **cluster of 12 COVID-19 cases associated with a youth baseball tournament in Arizona**. Of the 19 Hawai'i residents who attended the tournament, 12 (9 minors, 3 adults) tested positive for SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19 (attack rate: 63%). Nine members of the group were fully vaccinated; four became breakthrough cases. Eight of the 12 baseball players were **ineligible for vaccination** at the time of the tournament due to age requirements. No secondary cases were identified, and no one associated with this cluster was hospitalized. The team was encouraged to wear masks and socially distance, however this was **not enforced** during practices nor games. The team returned to Hawai'i due to complaints of illness among five players.

Also, in October 2021, the Hawai'i State Department of Health investigated a **cluster of six COVID-19 cases associated with a softball tournament in Utah**. After returning home to Hawai'i in October, five of 18 team members tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 (attack rate: 28%). The spouse of a team member who traveled with the team also **tested positive** in Hawai'i. No secondary cases were identified, and no cases were hospitalized. All team members and exposed individuals were **fully vaccinated**. During the tournament masks were neither required nor worn by participants, and social distancing was **not enforced** between teammates on the field or in dugouts. Two of the players flew home while experiencing COVID-19 symptoms.

In both clusters, the **primary risk factors** for transmission were the teams not wearing masks and not social distancing during practice and play. Other risks factors that may contribute to transmission are sharing equipment without disinfecting between use and traveling in vehicles together with the car windows closed which can reduce ventilation in the vehicle. Both tournament groups had individuals travel while symptomatic in transit back to Hawai'i. Individuals should **test during travel** if symptoms arise during the trip. Traveling sports team and other large group travelers should have contingency plans in case members and accompanying travelers develop symptoms and/or testing positive during travel. Possible delays should be accounted for and individuals should **postpone traveling** in those circumstances. DOH recommends COVID-19 testing after returning from travel, especially if symptoms begin to develop. These clusters highlight the importance of **adherence to mitigation strategies** to reduce the transmission of COVID-19.

Hawai'i residents who will be **gathering, traveling, or competing at a sporting event** can protect themselves and others by incorporating approaches to reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19, such as vaccination, correct and consistent mask use, and social distancing. **Vaccination is the best defense against COVID-19**, especially to protect against hospitalizations and death. Breakthrough infections are possible and expected because no vaccine is 100% effective, but the State's recent [breakthrough data](#) shows that individuals who are fully vaccinated are **well-protected** against COVID-19.

Everyone 5 years and older should get vaccinated to help protect themselves and their community.
[#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

November 25, 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	5	3
<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	1	7	5	2
<i>Occupational Settings</i>				
Construction & Industrial	2	22	12	10
<i>Other Occupational Settings</i>	0	0	0	0
<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

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

November 25, 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 & 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	5	4	1
<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	31	19	12
Gyms	1	9	9	0
<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**

November 25, 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	12	9	3
<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	3	3	0
<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**

November 25, 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	4	3	1
<i>Shelters</i>	0	0	0	0
<i>Food Service, Production, and Distribution</i>				
<i>Bars & Nightclubs</i>	0	0	0	0
Food Suppliers	1	7	4	3
<i>Restaurants</i>	0	0	0	0
<i>Occupational Settings</i>				
Construction & Industrial	2	12	10	2
Other Occupational Settings	2	11	8	3
<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	45	38	7
<i>Gyms</i>	0	0	0	0
<i>Other</i>				
<i>Other</i>	0	0	0	0