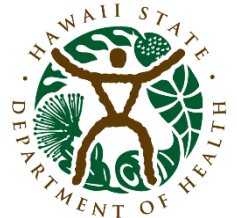




State of Hawai'i

Weekly COVID-19 Cluster Report

December 23, 2021



The state of Hawai'i recognizes the importance of **faith-based entities** such as churches, temples, and other places of worship to be vital and crucial organizations within the community. They enrich the lives of many residents, and they are central in traditions observed during the holiday season. With the emergence of COVID-19, churches, temples, and other places of worship have become common settings for COVID-19 transmission that can lead to **outbreaks**. Many places of worship have been proactive in creating safe environments during regular services and particularly for **holiday practices & traditions** to protect their members, visitors, and staff.

The following suggestions were gathered from interviews with churches on Maui and Oahu:

- **Online streaming** of services is a great way to safely celebrate and worship as a group
- Offer **drive-in or outdoor services**. If establishment has large enough parking lot, lawn, or other outdoor space, use FM transmitter to transmit the service to car radio
- Multiple churches require members and visitors appearing in-person to be **fully vaccinated**, and members should receive a **booster** when eligible.
- **Pre-registering seats online** to attend in-person services. This allows the church to limit the number of people in attendance to coincide with regulatory or spatial requirements
- Keep confidential records of attendance and seating for contact tracing purposes
- Temperature checks and health screening prior to engaging with on-site services
- Offer personal protective equipment (PPE) supplies on hand for members, i.e. masks and hand sanitation stations
- **Wear masks** indoors, and mask outdoors during crowded events
- Maintain physical **distance** between other households
- **Avoid indoor congregational singing** to prevent respiratory droplet transmission. Many churches have had success with virtual services that incorporate musical worship
- Offer **vaccination clinics** on site for the congregation. For example, this was implemented at a church in Maui County contributing to a 75% vaccination rate among its congregation
- Be extra cautious to protect kupuna and those who can't get vaccinated

Let's incorporate **safe practices** this holiday season to prevent COVID-19 transmission in our communities on all islands. DOH recommends getting vaccinated and boosted, staying home if you are sick, wearing a mask indoors, gathering with members of the same household, avoiding large crowds, and social distancing (> 6 ft apart). These mitigation measures are highly encouraged due to increasing cases and the presence of the Omicron variant. **Vaccination** and **boosters** are the best way to protect yourself and your loved ones. [#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 <i>State of Hawai'i Weekly COVID-19 Clusters in Healthcare Settings Report</i>. Additionally, a long-term care table is included in the <i>Disease Outbreak Control Division COVID-19 Operations Report</i> 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

December 23, 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	65	47	18
<i>Shelters</i>	0	0	0	0
<i>Food Service, Production, and Distribution</i>				
Bars & Nightclubs	2	94	85	9
Food Suppliers	3	26	23	3
Restaurants	8	44	40	4
<i>Occupational Settings</i>				
Construction & Industrial	2	11	10	1
<i>Other Occupational Settings</i>	0	0	0	0
<i>Travel, Lodging & Tourism</i>	0	0	0	0
<i>Social and Recreational Activities</i>				
Social Gatherings	1	5	5	9
Places of Worship	1	11	7	4
<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

December 23, 2021

Exposure Category	Clusters (#)	Total Cases (#)	Cases Associated with Primary Setting (#)	Linked Cases Outside Primary Setting (#)
<i>Congregate Settings</i>				
<i>Correctional Facilities</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>
Educational Settings	1	3	3	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	1	3	3	0
Restaurants	3	20	16	4
<i>Occupational Settings</i>				
Construction & Industrial	2	7	7	0
Other Occupational Settings	1	4	4	0
Travel, Lodging & Tourism	2	7	6	1
<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>

Hawai'i County

- **No COVID-19 Clusters Under Investigation in Last 14 Days** -

December 23, 2021

Kauai County

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

December 23, 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
<i>Other Occupational Settings</i>	0	0	0	0
<i>Travel, Lodging & Tourism</i>	0	0	0	0
<i>Social and Recreational Activities</i>				
Social Gatherings	1	5	4	1
<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