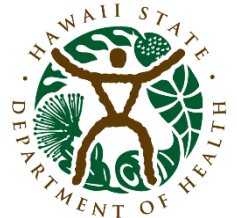




# State of Hawai'i

## Weekly COVID-19 Cluster Report

### December 9, 2021



This time of year, family and friends will find themselves gathering to celebrate holiday traditions. Although there is a risk of **COVID-19 spread** at **social gatherings**, prevention strategies can help **mitigate this risk**.

To protect yourself and others this holiday season, here are some suggestions for **safely celebrating**:

- Receive your **COVID-19 vaccination** and **booster** when eligible, and encourage others to do so
- Even if fully vaccinated, **wear a mask** during indoor and/or crowded holiday events & gatherings to help prevent transmission of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19
- Hold holiday gatherings & events outdoors when possible
- While attending a holiday gathering, open windows and doors (weather permitting) to **allow airflow, which** can reduce viral transmission
- Follow all travel guidelines, including wearing a well-fitting mask when mandated on transportation (i.e. bus, plane, taxis, or ridesharing), and providing a negative COVID-19 test or proof of full vaccination
- Domestic travelers must continue using the [Safe Travels Program](#), and international travelers should follow national and state [guidelines](#)
- Stay home and get tested if you are sick to prevent others from getting sick
- **Physically distance yourself** (6 ft apart) from others outside of your household
- Practice proper **hand hygiene**, including washing your hands with soap and water or, if not available, then using hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol

With the rise of the Omicron variant (B.1.1.529), **vaccination and boosters** remain the number one tool to prevent COVID-19. The CDC recommends everyone 5 years old and older should get vaccinated, and boosters are recommended for everyone 18 years and older. Stay up to date on [vaccine/booster eligibility and availability](#) near you.

[General prevention strategies](#), including over-the-counter (OTC) self-testing, remain important. Consider using over-the-counter self-test before attending holiday gatherings to help reduce the chance of viral transmission. The DOH is investigating a cluster of cases that includes multiple confirmed cases, including one confirmed Omicron case. This cluster began at a Thanksgiving gathering and includes 16 total close contacts. This case is still under investigation by DOH. **DOH recommends everyone, vaccinated or not vaccinated, test after known contact with someone who has COVID-19.** Consider using a self-test before gathering with friends and family. Anyone can self-test, even if you don't have symptoms or are fully vaccinated, in order to make decisions that will help prevent spreading COVID-19 to others. In the holiday spirit, protect the ones you love by celebrating with care. **Happy Holidays!**

## 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>
<b><i>Congregate Settings</i></b>	
<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
<b><i>Food Service, Production, and Distribution</i></b>	
<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
<b><i>Occupational Settings</i></b>	
<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
<b><i>Social and Recreational Activities</i></b>	
<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

December 9, 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
<b>Food Suppliers</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>
<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
<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**

December 9, 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
<b>Educational Settings</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>
<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
<b>Other Occupational Settings</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Travel, Lodging &amp; Tourism</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>6</b>
<i>Social and Recreational Activities</i>				
<b>Social Gatherings</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Places of Worship</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>6</b>
<i>Gyms</i>	0	0	0	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**

December 9, 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>19</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>15</b>
<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**

December 9, 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
<b>Educational Settings</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2</b>
<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
<b>Restaurants</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>
<i>Occupational Settings</i>				
<b>Construction &amp; Industrial</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Other Occupational Settings</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>
<i>Travel, Lodging &amp; 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
<b>Gyms</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>
<i>Other</i>				
<i>Other</i>	0	0	0	0