



State of Hawai'i

Weekly COVID-19 Cluster Report

January 6, 2022



Shelters have been identified as **high-risk settings** for COVID-19 transmission since the beginning of the pandemic. These settings pose special **challenges** for implementing COVID-19 mitigation strategies due to shared living quarters and the difficulty to physically distance. Therefore, **vaccinations** are one of the most important tools to **prevent COVID-19 transmission** in shelters.

In June 2021, the Maui District Health Office investigated a **cluster of nine COVID-19 cases who were associated with a childcare program within a shelter setting**. Four of seven children (aged 2-20 months; average age: 8 months), four of 12 adult residents, and one of 21 staff members tested positive for SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19 (attack rate: 22.5%). No secondary cases were identified. There was one hospitalization amongst a staff member, but they were likely exposed by a case unrelated to the shelter. None of the residents and only half of the staff were **fully vaccinated** when the cases were reported.

In September 2021, the Hawai'i Country District Health Office investigated a **cluster of 11 COVID-19 cases associated with a homeless shelter on Hawai'i Island**. Ten of the 21 identified individuals at the homeless shelter tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 (attack rate: 48%). Two families who **regularly interacted** accounted for eight of the 10 cases. The shelter contains six microhomes with a shared kitchen and two shared bathrooms. No employees tested positive. One secondary case was identified among a family member from outside the shelter, who was also a resident at another shelter for seniors. The initial exposure was suspected to have happened **outside the shelter**. Only one of the cases was fully vaccinated.

Shelters have experienced fewer cluster situations in recent months due to **improved protocols and procedures**. New residents are tested before accessing the shelter as a precaution to the other residents. According to CDC guidance at that time, if residents would like to leave the facility for an event, the residents are tested five days after to **prevent potential transmission**. If a resident does test positive, individual shelters have created COVID-19 plans to keep their residents safe. For example, one shelter provided a reserved bathroom for active cases that was **separate** from non-case bathrooms. Additionally, only one family is allowed to use the communal kitchen at a time to prevent COVID-19 spread. **Mask usage** was also encouraged among residents and employees.

With rising **community transmission** rates statewide, core prevention strategies remain essential to prevent the spread of COVID-19, especially in high-risk settings such as shelters. Facilities have worked to increase resources to accommodate testing/vaccine availability for those in temporary housing. Many groups have gone out into the community to vaccinate and have held vaccine clinics where homeless individuals can go to for vaccinations. With omicron sweeping through the state, **getting a vaccination/booster is paramount in protecting all our communities**. Although congregate settings like shelters pose risks due to close living quarters, the fewer clusters experienced in recent months demonstrate that layered mitigation strategies, including vaccinating, correct and consistent mask wearing, cohorting, and testing, can prevent transmission in shelters and other congregate settings. [#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

January 6, 2022

Exposure Category	Clusters (#)	Total Cases (#)	Cases Associated with Primary Setting (#)	Linked Cases Outside Primary Setting (#)
<i>Congregate Settings</i>				
Correctional Facilities	2	75	68	7
Educational Settings	5	88	62	26
<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
Food Suppliers	6	69	65	4
Restaurants	14	117	109	8
<i>Occupational Settings</i>				
<i>Construction & Industrial</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>
Other Occupational Settings	3	40	35	5
<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>

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

January 6, 2022

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
Restaurants	3	41	35	6
<i>Occupational Settings</i>				
<i>Construction & Industrial</i>	0	0	0	0
<i>Other Occupational Settings</i>	0	0	0	0
Travel, Lodging & Tourism	9	66	60	6
<i>Social and Recreational Activities</i>				
Social Gatherings	2	15	8	7
<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

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

January 6, 2022

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	6	6	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>				
<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

January 6, 2022

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	19	18	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