



Hawaii Department of Health COVID-19 Reinfection Data

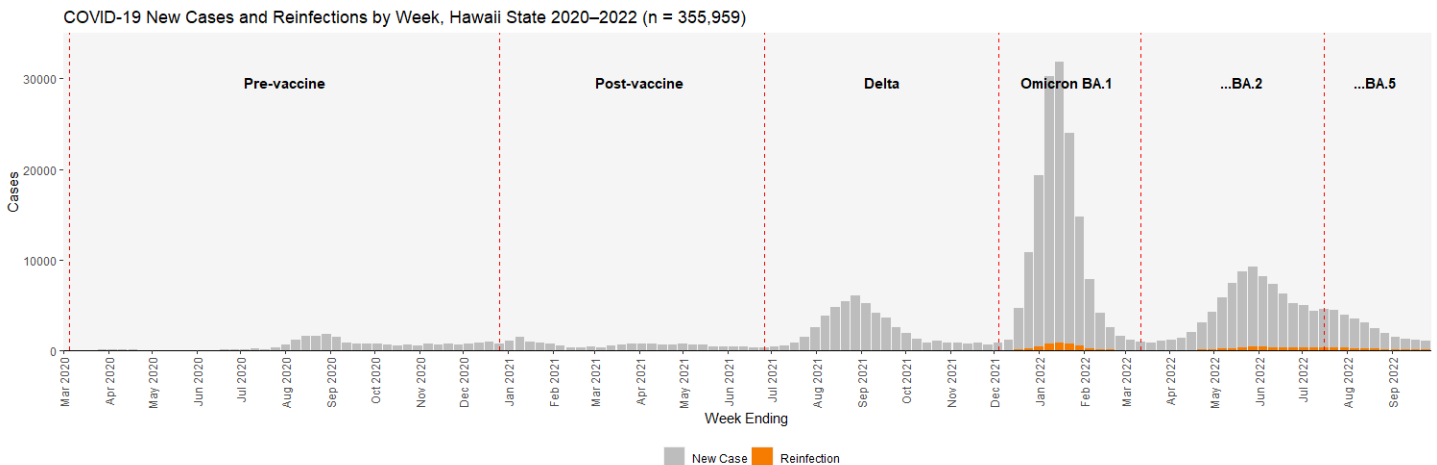
COVID-19 Reinfections

As of September 28, 2022, COVID-19 reinfections have been added to the Hawaii Department of Health (HDOH) COVID-19 case counts. A COVID-19 reinfection is when a person who had COVID-19 recovered and then later became infected again. For the purposes of the case counts, HDOH is reporting reinfections using a definition based on the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE) [COVID-19 case definition](#). Reported cases will be included as a reinfection if their case date* is 90 days or more after the case date of their previous infection. Reinfections will be included in the case counts going forward, and historic reinfections from the beginning of the pandemic (the first reported reinfections occurred in September 2020) through the present have also been added.

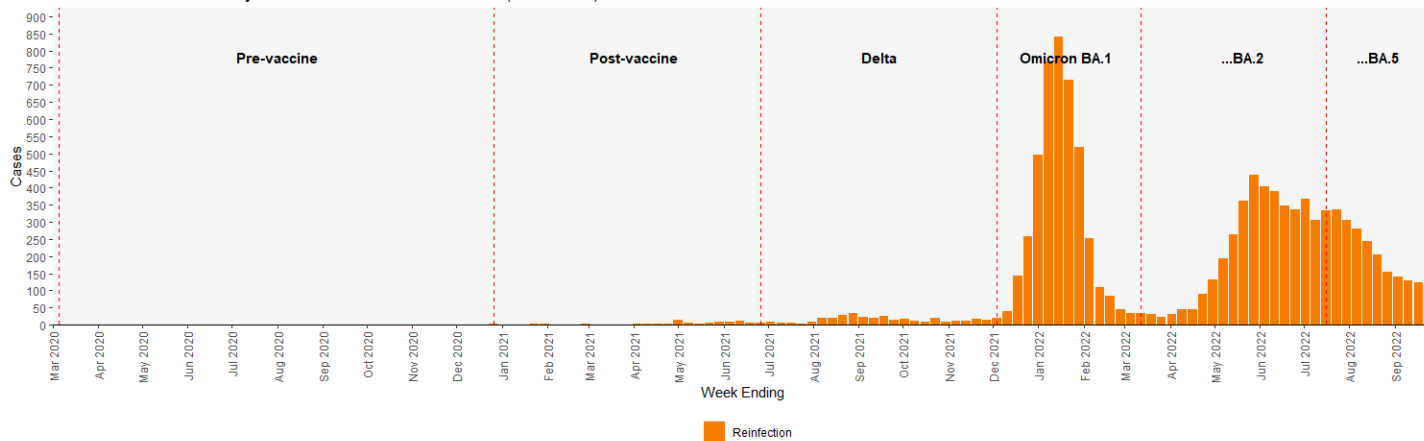
HDOH can only identify reinfections if both the original infection and subsequent infections are reported to HDOH. Given the increased use of over the counter at-home tests, which are not reported to HDOH, the number of reinfections is likely an undercount.

Hawaii Reinfection Counts

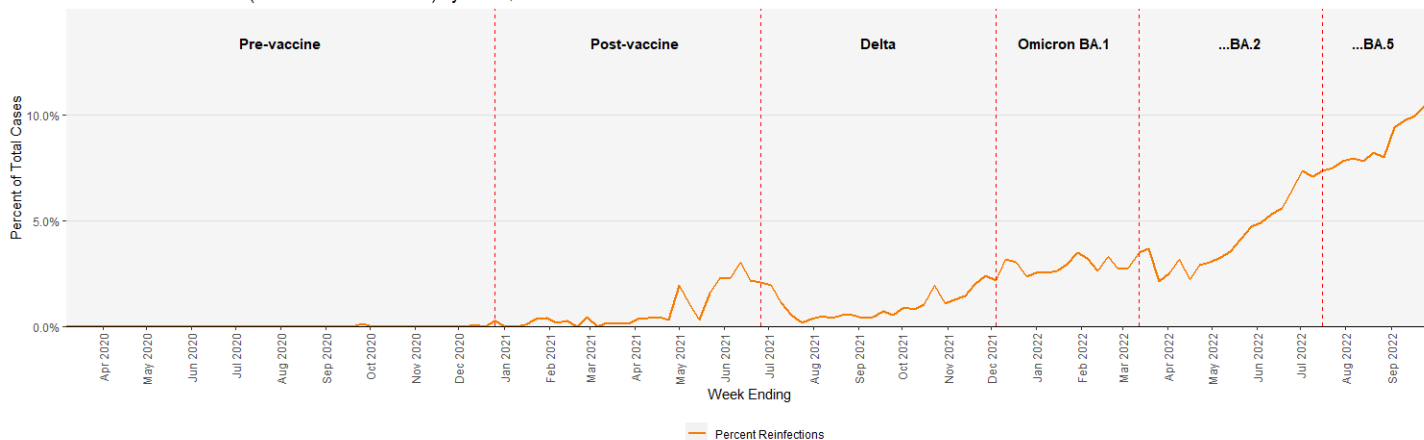
Island Diagnosed	Total Reinfections (March 5, 2020 through September 26, 2022)
State Total	10,995
Hawaii	1,073
Kauai	467
Lanai	19
Maui	1,638
Molokai	26
Oahu	7,747
Out of State	25



COVID-19 Reinfections by Week, Hawaii State 2020–2022 (n = 10,995)



COVID-19 Reinfections (Percent of Total Cases) by Week, Hawaii State 2020–2022



From the Pre-vaccine through the Delta periods of the pandemic (March 5, 2020–December 4, 2021)[†], the proportion of total cases that were reinfections was low, making up a total of <1% of cases. Coinciding with the occurrence of new variants, the proportion of reinfections increased to 3% during the Omicron BA.1 surge, to 5% with the arrival of BA.2, and 8% with BA.5, the current predominate variant identified in Hawaii. The proportion has continued to increase with the most recent weeks being >10%.

Recommendations

These data highlight the fact that immunity from previous infections only lasts so long, and that just because someone had COVID-19 before doesn’t mean they are not be able to get it again. It is a reminder that regardless of if you have already had COVID-19 or not, the best way to protect yourself and those around you is to stay up to date on vaccinations, including getting booster shots when eligible. Staying up to date with vaccinations not only reduces the chance of getting infected, it also provides protection against severe illness and hospitalization.

For more information on COVID-19 vaccinations, including where to find vaccination locations, visit HawaiiCOVID19.com/vaccine.

Footnotes

* COVID-19 cases are assigned a case date based on the date of their laboratory results or, if not available, their illness onset date or the date they were reported to HDOH.

† Based on the variant that was identified in >50% of specimens sequenced, as shown in the [variant report](#).