

Hawaii Epi Bulletin

HAWAII STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
DISEASE OUTBREAK CONTROL DIVISION

Summer 2019

School Immunizations and Exemptions



[Click here to view the immunization exemptions map for the 2018–2019 school year](#)

In Hawaii, for students from kindergarten through grade 12 to attend **public or private** school they must meet immunization requirements set by Hawaii state law. Beginning with the 2020–2021 school year, additional immunizations will be required. (A full list of required vaccinations can be found [here](#)) However, if proper documentation is provided, students may be granted exemptions from the immunization requirements for medical or religious reasons.

Schools are required to report the number of students that have been exempted from or who have not complied with the immunization requirements, with a final report due to the Department of Health (DOH) by January 10th of each year. These data are gathered by DOH and published on the DOH website, in both a table form as well as an interactive map. The data from the schools are self-reported and are not validated by DOH.

County	Medical Exemptions	Religious Exemptions	Total Enrollment
Kauai	<0.1%	5.6%	10,762
Hawaii	<0.1%	4.0%	29,893
Maui	<0.1%	3.5%	23,957
Honolulu	<0.1%	0.9%	142,421

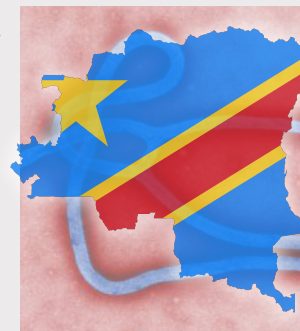
2018–2019 School Year (Data as of May 14, 2019)

Democratic Republic of the Congo Marks the One-Year Anniversary of Ongoing Ebola Virus Disease Outbreak

August 1, 2019 marked the one-year anniversary of the outbreak of Ebola virus disease (EVD) that is currently ongoing in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). As of August 28, 2019, there have been 3,004 cases identified, including 2,006 deaths, since the Ministry of Health of the DRC declared an outbreak of EVD in its North Kivu Province on August 1, 2018. This is the largest EVD outbreak in the DRC in history and the second

largest outbreak of EVD globally (the largest outbreak being the West Africa outbreak in 2014).

On July 17, 2019 the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the outbreak a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC). In their statement, the committee commented that “the declaration of the PHEIC is not a reflection on the performance of the response team but rather a measure that recognizes the possible increased national and regional risks and the need for intensified and coordinated action to manage them.” Even though there has been improvement in many regions of the DRC there is concern that the potential for further spread is still high. Uganda reported three imported cases of EVD in June, and recently, three new cases were reported from Goma, a major transit hub in the DRC, continuing to highlight the risk of the outbreak spreading farther. It is hoped that the declaration of the outbreak as a PHEIC will increase the response activities in the DRC and the surrounding regions.



School Immunization Exemptions	1
Ebola	1
C. auris	2
Updates from the Pacific	2
Disease Reporting Categories	4

This timely report of surveillance and laboratory activities from the Disease Outbreak Control Division of the Hawaii State Department of Health contains information on investigations in progress and/or diagnoses that may not yet be confirmed. The **Hawaii Epi Bulletin** is intended primarily for the use of the public health professionals, should be considered privileged, and should **NOT be distributed** further.

Candida auris

The Coordinator's Corner
Healthcare-Associated Infections (HAI)



Candida auris (or *C. auris*), a species of yeast, is an emerging “super-bug” that presents a serious health threat. It has caught the nation’s, and the world’s, attention; recent articles in mainstream media have highlighted the danger and controversy surrounding this drug-resistant yeast. The reasons why these yeasts are threatening are three-fold. First, yeasts and fungi have fewer treatment options than bacteria, so any new resistance can have devastating effects on the options available for patients. Second, this yeast is notoriously difficult to identify with standard laboratory methods, making it easy to miss. Finally, it has caused outbreaks in healthcare settings, where it has been shown to be extremely difficult to eradicate from the environment and can even colonize people for months, maybe years.

What is the Hawaii Department of Health doing to protect the residents of our state from this emerging threat? We are working with our hospitals’ and healthcare facilities’ Infection Preventionists to raise awareness of this emerging healthcare threat and encourage and support basic infection prevention and control

infrastructure. We have teamed up with the Antimicrobial Resistance Laboratory Network (ARLN) to offer to any Hawaii healthcare facility free *C. auris* screening upon admission of their patients. We are working with microbiologists to ensure *Candida* isolates are reliably identified to the species level, when appropriate, to limit misidentifying any *C. auris*. If the initial identification is suspicious or epidemiological information merits further investigation or confirmation, all isolates may be forwarded to the ARLN for confirmatory testing, at no charge. To date, no cases of *C. auris* have been identified in Hawaii, but an increasing number of jurisdictions are being affected, with recent outbreaks reported in California. It is important for us to remain vigilant.

Our state’s ability to be resilient against all emerging antimicrobial resistance lies in maintaining core infrastructure of public health surveillance and response, up-to-date microbiological testing and general laboratory capacity across the state, and infection prevention and control programs at the facility level. With all stakeholders working together, we can all better protect the people of Hawaii against *C. auris* and whatever emerging antimicrobial-resistant threat comes our way.

Updates from the Pacific**Dengue**

- On August 6, 2019, a national dengue epidemic was declared in the **Philippines**. There have been 146,062 cases recorded since January 2019, including 622 deaths.
- As of July 28, 2019, 418 cases of dengue have been reported since December 7, 2018 in an ongoing outbreak in **Palau**. In 117 cases, DENV-3 has been identified.
- As of August 9, 2019, 16 confirmed cases of DENV-3 and 244 suspect cases have been reported by **Yap State, Federated States of Micronesia** since January 1, 2019.
- The DENV-1 outbreak in **Tuvalu** is still ongoing. Between March 25, 2019 and July 28, 2019, 508 dengue like illnesses were reported and 210 were confirmed.
- A State of Health Emergency was declared on Ebeye islands by the **Republic of Marshall Islands** on August 6, 2019. There have been 11 confirmed cases of DENV-3 reported as of August 15, 2019.

Measles

- As of the week ending August 16, there have been 639 cases of measles reported from **New Zealand** since January 1, 2019.

Influenza

- **French Polynesia** has reported an outbreak of influenza B, with 17 confirmed cases identified.

HDOH Hawaii Health Care Provider Disease Reporting Categories

Confidential

Infections/diseases which may carry a social stigma are to be reported with extra precautions to assure patient confidentiality. Reports are to be submitted within three working days of diagnosis.

Urgent

Diseases or conditions that are suspicious or presenting with novel symptoms that may or may not be part of a known disease or disease complex, labeled "urgent" shall be reported by telephone as soon as a provisional diagnosis is established.

The telephone report shall be followed by a written report submitted by mail or fax within three days to the Disease Outbreak Control Division, Disease Investigation Branch on Oahu or to the District Health Office on the neighbor islands.

Routine

Diseases labelled "routine" shall be reported by mail, by telephone, or fax to the Disease Outbreak Control Division, Disease Investigation Branch on Oahu or to the District Health Office on the neighbor islands.

Routine/Enteric (enteric prevention priority)

Diseases labeled "routine—enteric prevention priority" shall be reported by telephone as soon as a working diagnosis is established if the individual case is a food handler, direct care provider, or pre-school-aged child. Otherwise, routine reports may be submitted.

Outbreak Reports

Any disease shall be reported by telephone when observed to occur clearly in excess of normal expectancy as determined by the healthcare provider or the Director of Health. The telephone report shall be followed by a written report submitted by mail or fax within three days to the Disease Outbreak Control Division, on Oahu, or to the District Health Office on the neighbor islands.

HDOH Telephone Numbers

Oahu (Disease Investigation Branch)
(808) 586-4586

Maui District Health Office
(808) 984-8213

Kauai District Health Office
(808) 241-3563

Big Island DHO (Hilo)
(808) 933-0912

Big Island DHO (Kona)
(808) 322-4877

After hours (Oahu)
(808) 600-3625

After hours (Neighbor islands)
(808) 360-2575



HAWAII STATE
DEPARTMENT
OF HEALTH