



State of Hawai'i

Weekly COVID-19 Cluster Report

December 3, 2020



Key Updates: Clusters in Food Production and Distribution Settings

- Between August and November 2020, **23 clusters involving food producers, suppliers, or distributors** were investigated in Hawaii. These clusters ranged in size from **2 – 26** cases associated with the primary setting. The most commonly identified factor contributing to transmission was lack of social distancing; specifically, **congregating during meal and smoke breaks** and **carpooling to and from work**. Employees **socializing during break time without wearing masks** was identified as a potential factor leading to COVID-19 transmission in **14** clusters involving food producers, suppliers, or distributors.
- **Accurate and timely information regarding employee work schedules, job tasks, and other behaviors in and around the workplace** is essential for the Department of Health to reliably determine exposure risks and provide appropriate advice to business owners on COVID-19 outbreak response, mitigation, and prevention. Multiple clusters involving food production and distribution employees were complicated by employers refusing to provide names and contact information for employees that had recently worked with contagious individuals. Reasons for refusal included communication difficulties between local managers and corporate managers and a desire to stay open. The **lack of timely employee contact information** resulted in **continued transmission in affected workplaces** as well as **delayed or inconsistent guidance provided to impacted individuals**.
- If the Hawaii State Department of Health **Disease Outbreak Control Division** (DOCD) has reason to believe that an employer is not complying with COVID-19 protocols, DOCD may request assistance from the **Food Safety Branch** (FSB). The FSB might conduct a site visit of the establishment to assess the workplace for violations that could result in imminent health hazards to workers or patrons. If such violations are found, the establishment will be temporarily closed until these violations are corrected.

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:

Two (2) 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).

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”
Educational Settings	Preschools, K-12, and institutes of higher education, school-based athletics, after school programs
Shelters	Facilities providing short or long-term sheltering services for individuals 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, 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

December 3, 2020

Exposure Category	Clusters (#)	Total Cases (#)	Cases Associated with Primary Setting (#)	Linked Cases Outside Primary Setting (#)
<i>Congregate Settings</i>				
Correctional Facilities	2	763	709	54
<i>Educational Settings</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>
<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>
<i>Food Suppliers</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>
<i>Restaurants</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>
<i>Occupational Settings</i>				
Construction & Industrial	1	13	4	9
<i>Other Occupational Settings</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>
<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>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**

December 3, 2020

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>				
Bars & Nightclubs	3	22	17	5
<i>Food Suppliers</i>	0	0	0	0
Restaurants	1	6	6	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	14	13	1
<i>Places of Worship</i>	0	0	0	0
<i>Other</i>				
Other: Gym	1	2	2	0

Hawai'i County

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

December 3, 2020

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	11	6	5
<i>Places of Worship</i>	0	0	0	0
<i>Other</i>				
<i>Other:</i>	0	0	0	0

Kauai County

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