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**DOH REPORTS TRAVEL-RELATED  
DENGUE VIRUS CASE IN O'AHU VISITOR**

26-067

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

June 17, 2026

HONOLULU — The Hawai'i Department of Health (DOH) has identified a new travel-related dengue virus case on O'ahu involving a visitor. As this case involves a nonresident, it is not included in Hawai'i's official dengue case count, which remains at five cases statewide. The affected individual was exposed to the virus while traveling in a region where dengue is common.

DOH teams have been deployed to conduct inspections, provide outreach materials and implement mosquito control measures in the affected area.

Due to specifics of this case, the expected risk of local transmission is low. The visitor is no longer in Hawai'i and at time of departure was no longer considered to be infectious as related to human-to-mosquito transmission.

However, this case is a good reminder for the public to remove standing water as much as possible to help reduce the mosquito population and thereby reduce the potential risk of local transmission of mosquito-borne diseases.

Mosquitoes need only small amounts of standing water to breed. Common breeding sites include buckets, water-catching plants (such as bromeliads), small containers, planters, rain barrels and even cups left outside. Prevent standing water from collecting around the home and workplace by pouring out containers to prevent mosquitoes from laying eggs. More information on mosquito control can be found [here](#).

Dengue virus is transmitted from an infected person to a mosquito and then to another person. While Hawai'i is home to the mosquitoes that can carry dengue, the disease is not endemic (established) in the state — and cases are currently limited to travelers.

Dengue is a year-round risk in the tropical and subtropical areas of Central and South America (including Brazil and Mexico), Asia (including the Philippines), the Middle East, Africa and several Pacific Islands like American Samoa, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Republic of Palau. Many popular tourist destinations in the Caribbean, including Puerto Rico, are also affected.

Some countries are reporting higher-than-usual numbers of dengue cases, including the Cook Islands, Samoa, Vietnam, Bolivia, Colombia, Guyana, Maldives, Mali, New Caledonia, Timor-Leste and Tonga. Travelers should review up-to-date, country-specific travel information for guidance on dengue risk and prevention measures, at least four to six weeks before traveling.

Anyone who plans to travel to or has recently visited an area with dengue risk is vulnerable to infection. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) advises travelers to take standard precautions when visiting such areas. This includes using an Environmental Protection Agency ([EPA](#))-registered insect repellent, wearing long-sleeved shirts and long pants outdoors and sleeping in air-conditioned rooms, rooms with window screens, or under [insecticide-treated bed nets](#).

Travelers returning from dengue-endemic areas should take precautions to prevent mosquito bites for three weeks. If dengue symptoms develop within two weeks of return, travelers should seek medical evaluation.

Symptoms of dengue can range from mild to severe and include fever, nausea, vomiting, rash and body aches. Symptoms typically last two to seven days and while severe illness can occur, most people recover within a week. Individuals who have

recently traveled and are experiencing these symptoms should contact their healthcare provider. Healthcare providers and individuals who suspect a dengue infection are advised to call the Disease Reporting Line at 808-586-4586.

In areas with suspected or confirmed dengue cases, DOH personnel from the Vector Control Branch (VCB) conduct inspections and mosquito-reduction activities. Reducing mosquito populations lowers the risk of dengue transmission to others. In areas without reported dengue cases, eliminating mosquito breeding sites around the home is a helpful preventive measure.

For more information, visit the [Disease Outbreak Control Division \(DOCD\)](#) and [Vector Control Branch \(VCB\)](#) websites.

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