Key Updates: Clusters in Restaurants and Bars

- The majority of clusters in restaurants, bars, and other food service settings investigated in Hawai‘i have involved suspected transmission among coworkers, as opposed to transmission between food establishment employees and patrons. For example, a cluster investigated earlier this month involved three employees at a small family-owned restaurant. The investigation revealed that employees were wearing masks while working, but masks were not always being worn properly. For example, employees in the kitchen area sometimes did not have their noses covered by the masks. Additionally, the layout of the restaurant’s grill and stove workstations made it difficult to maintain physical distance at all times. Recommendations included maintaining proper masking at all times and reorienting workstations or adding in physical barriers between workstations if possible. No cases among restaurant patrons were identified in this investigation.

- One COVID-19 cluster identified among coffee shop employees in September highlighted unique challenges for workers in certain food service settings. Although employees did generally follow physical distancing recommendations, spatial constraints in the work area (in this case, a long narrow space behind a bar) led to brief but repeated close contact between employees, putting them at risk for transmission of COVID-19. An in-depth investigation and analysis of this cluster and similar past clusters led to a modification of recommendations. For food service establishments where work area layout may not allow for consistent physical distancing, Hawaii DOH now recommends quarantining the entire shift in a shared work area when an employee tests positive for COVID-19.

- Multiple clusters investigated on Oahu have involved suspected transmission from a patron ordering drinks to an employee taking the drink order from behind a bar. In one cluster currently under investigation, a patron was symptomatic when he ordered drinks from a bar area within a restaurant, and the employee that took his order later tested positive for COVID-19. This situation highlights heightened risks associated with bars and similar settings where people often lean in close and/or yell to make food and drink orders in order to be heard over loud background noise.

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:  
  • Meeting clinical criteria AND epidemiologic linkage with no confirmatory laboratory testing performed for SARS-CoV-2  
    OR  
  • Meeting presumptive laboratory evidence  
    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 \ Specific Settings Included in Category | Congregate Settings |
| --- | --- |
| **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 |

### Food Service, Production, and Distribution

| Exposure Setting Category \ Specific Settings Included in Category | Congregate Settings |
| --- | --- |
| **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 |

### Occupational Settings

| Exposure Setting Category \ Specific Settings Included in Category | Congregate Settings |
| --- | --- |
| **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 |

### Social and Recreational Activities

| Exposure Setting Category \ Specific Settings Included in Category | Congregate Settings |
| --- | --- |
| **Social Gatherings** | Parties, group gatherings, weddings, funerals, other social functions |
| **Places of Worship** | Religious services and other events / activities at places of worship |

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\( a \) 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.

\( b \) Specific settings included in the reference table may not be exhaustive for the category.
## COVID-19 Cluster Tables

### City & County of Honolulu

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

*November 27, 2020*

| Exposure Category | Clusters (#) | Total Cases (#) | Cases Associated with Primary Setting (#) | Linked Cases Outside Primary Setting (#) |
|-------------------|--------------|-----------------|--------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| **Congregate Settings** |              |                 |                                            |                                          |
| Correctional Facilities | 2            | 742             | 689                                        | 53                                       |
| Educational Settings | 4            | 12              | 10                                         | 2                                        |
| Shelters | 1 | 16 | 16 | 0 |
| **Food Service, Production, and Distribution** | | | | |
| Bars & Nightclubs | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Food Suppliers | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Restaurants | 1 | 5 | 3 | 2 |
| **Occupational Settings** | | | | |
| Construction & Industrial | 2 | 17 | 6 | 11 |
| Other Occupational Settings | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Travel, Lodging, & Tourism | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| **Social and Recreational Activities** | | | | |
| Social Gatherings | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Places of Worship | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| **Other** | | | | |
| Other: | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
Maui County
COVID-19 Clusters Under Investigation in Last 14 Days by Exposure Setting
November 27, 2020

| Exposure Category                      | Clusters (#) | Total Cases (#) | Cases Associated with Primary Setting (#) | Linked Cases Outside Primary Setting (#) |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|-----------------|------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| **Congregate Settings**               |              |                 |                                          |                                          |
| Correctional Facilities               | 0            | 0               | 0                                        | 0                                        |
| Educational Settings                  | 0            | 0               | 0                                        | 0                                        |
| Shelters                              | 0            | 0               | 0                                        | 0                                        |
| **Food Service, Production, and Distribution** |              |                 |                                          |                                          |
| Bars & Nightclubs                     | 0            | 0               | 0                                        | 0                                        |
| Food Suppliers                        | 0            | 0               | 0                                        | 0                                        |
| Restaurants                           | 0            | 0               | 0                                        | 0                                        |
| **Occupational Settings**             |              |                 |                                          |                                          |
| Construction & Industrial             | 0            | 0               | 0                                        | 0                                        |
| Other Occupational Settings           | 0            | 0               | 0                                        | 0                                        |
| Travel, Lodging, & Tourism            | 0            | 0               | 0                                        | 0                                        |
| **Social and Recreational Activities**|              |                 |                                          |                                          |
| Social Gatherings                     | 1            | 13              | 13                                       | 0                                        |
| Places of Worship                     | 0            | 0               | 0                                        | 0                                        |
| **Other**                             |              |                 |                                          |                                          |
| Other:                                | 0            | 0               | 0                                        | 0                                        |
Hawai‘i County
– No COVID-19 Clusters Under Investigation in Last 14 Days –

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