

Snohomish County COVID-19 Outbreaks

December 11, 2020

COVID-19 facility and employer outbreaks have been occurring in Snohomish County since March 2020. As of December 11, 2020, there have been 388 outbreaks reported. Long-term care facilities (LTCF), including adult family homes, are the most common site of COVID outbreaks (figure 1, table 1). The second most common site is retail locations, followed by restaurants, construction sites, and childcare facilities.

Healthcare associated outbreaks are unique from non-healthcare in response activities and infection control implications. Outbreaks in long-term care facilities and adult family homes are defined by the Washington State Department of Health as:

1. one PCR confirmed case of COVID-19 in either facility staff or a resident, OR
2. one resident with severe respiratory infection resulting in hospitalization or death, OR
3. Two or more residents or healthcare workers with new-onset respiratory symptoms consistent with COVID-19 within 72 hours of each other

All other healthcare facility outbreaks are defined the same as non-healthcare associated outbreaks (see below).

There were 118 healthcare associated outbreaks which accounted for 1,161 cases of COVID-19 (table 2). Over two-thirds were in long-term care facilities (skilled nursing and assisted living). The next most common site of healthcare associated outbreaks is adult family homes. Healthcare associated outbreaks were among the first outbreaks identified. In the spring outbreak events peaked in March followed by a slowing in outbreak events. There was a large spike in healthcare associated outbreaks in November 2020 (figure 2) concurrent with the ongoing third wave of community-wide transmission.

Non-healthcare outbreaks consist of childcares, places of employment, faith-based organizations, community, and social events. A non-healthcare outbreak is defined as:

1. Two or more laboratory-positive (PCR or antigen) cases, AND
2. At least two of the cases have symptom onset dates within 14 days of each other, AND
3. Plausible epidemiological evidence of transmission in the workplace or related setting, AND
4. No other known epidemiological link outside of the workplace or related setting.

Community and social event outbreaks are defined as 5 or more cases associated with a specific community group or social event.

There were 270 non-healthcare outbreaks involving 1,444 cases of COVID-19 (table 3). Retail locations were the most common site of COVID-19 outbreak. There were 43 retail-associated outbreaks involving 166 cases. Other common sites of employment-associated outbreaks were restaurants (n=34), construction sites (n=31), and childcares (n=27). Non-healthcare outbreaks continued increasing through November. Outbreak events in December will likely exceed November with a total of 57 outbreak events already identified from December 1-11, 2020 (figure 3).

Figure 1: Snohomish County COVID-19 outbreaks by site March - December 11, 2020

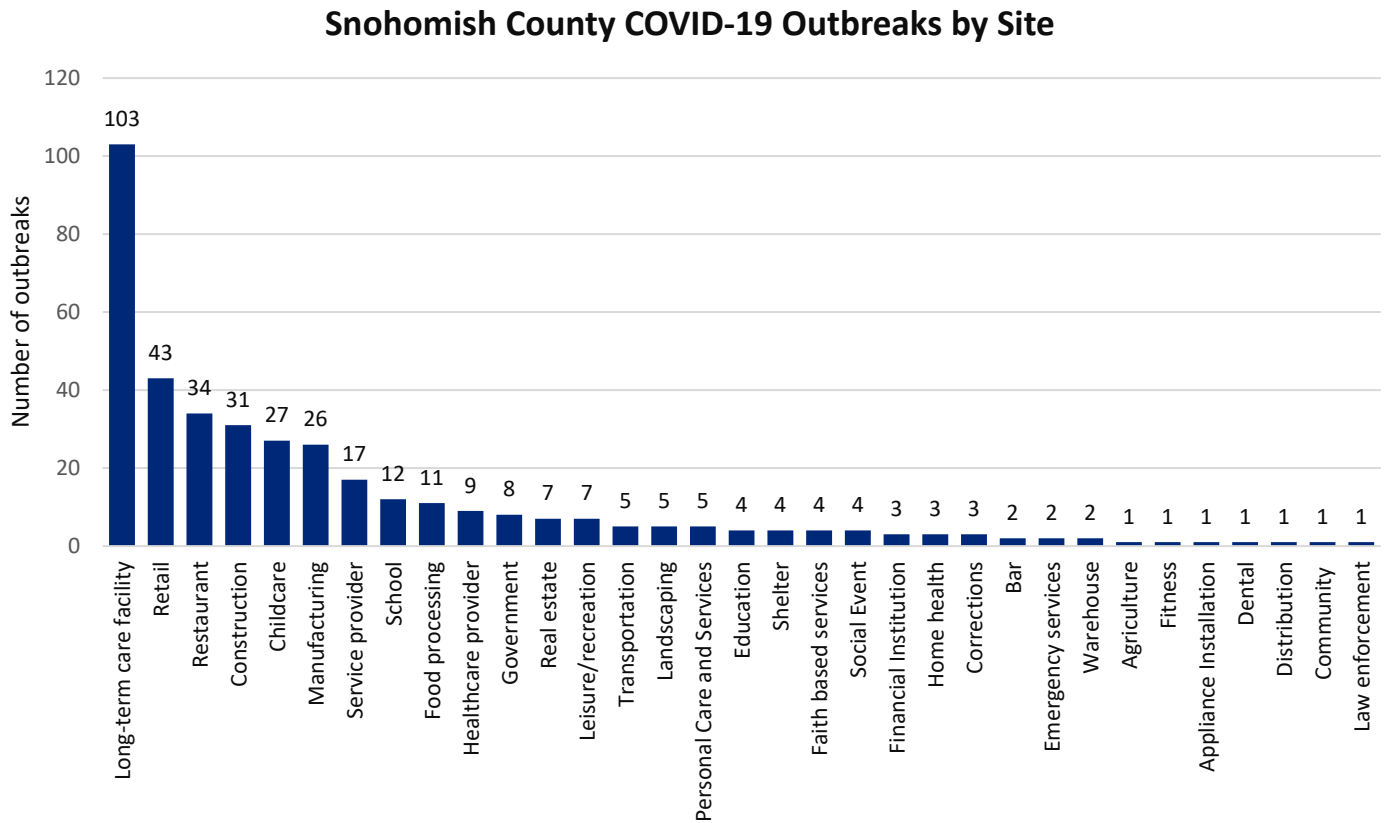
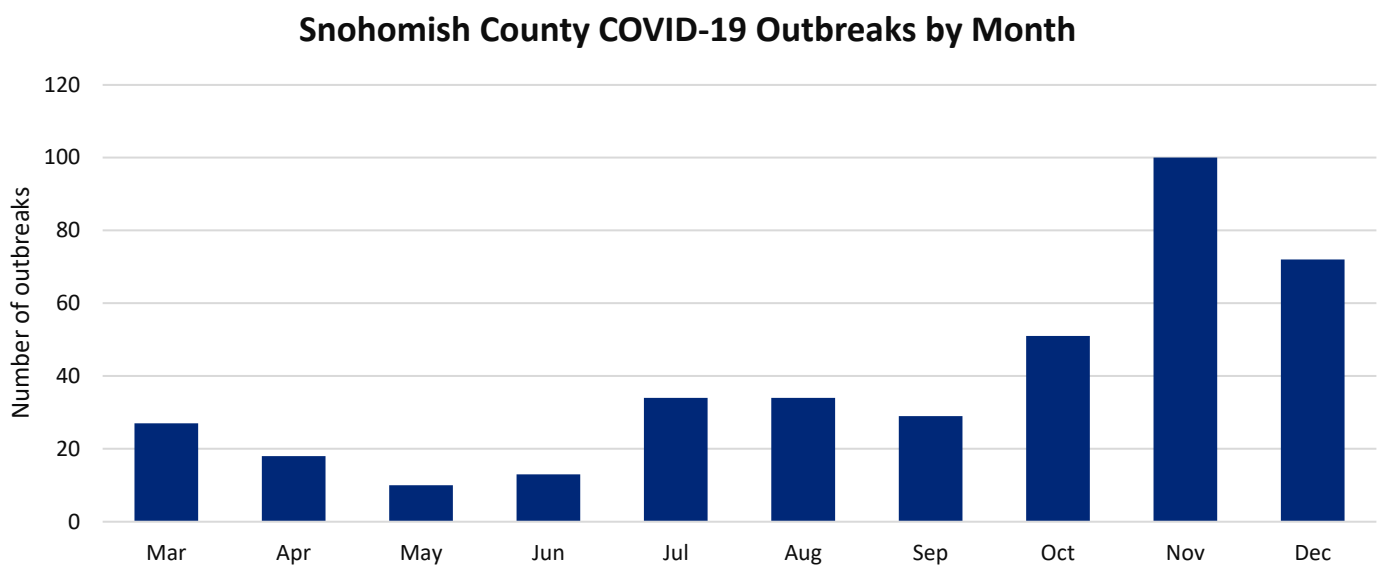


Figure 2: COVID-19 outbreaks by month, March - December 11, 2020



Note: data for December is incomplete as of this writing. 57 outbreak events identified from December 1-11.

Table 1: Snohomish County COVID-19 outbreaks by site, March - December 11, 2020

Site of outbreak	Number	Percent	Number of cases	Median	Range
Adult family home	29	7.5%	106	2	1-11
Agriculture	<5	n/a	<5	N/A	N/A
Bar	2	0.5%	8	4	2-6
Childcare	27	7.0%	103	3	2-13
Community	<5	n/a	141	N/A	N/A
Construction	31	8.0%	106	3	2-8
Corrections	<5	n/a	105	4	3-98
Dental	<5	n/a	<5	N/A	N/A
Distribution	<5	n/a	5	N/A	N/A
Education	<5	n/a	13	3.5	2-4
Emergency services	<5	n/a	9	4.5	4-5
Faith based services	<5	n/a	18	4.5	2-7
Financial Institution	<5	n/a	7	2	2-3
Fitness	<5	n/a	9	N/A	N/A
Food processing	11	2.8%	40	3	2-7
Government	8	2.1%	66	3.5	2-32
Healthcare provider	9	2.3%	24	3	2-4
Home health	<5	n/a	24	4	3-17
Landscaping	5	1.3%	23	4	3-6
Law enforcement	<5	n/a	<5	N/A	N/A
Leisure/recreation	7	1.8%	45	8	2-10
Long-term care facility	74	19.1%	996	3	1-184
Manufacturing	26	6.7%	116	4	2-11
Personal Care and Services	5	1.3%	16	2	2-7
Real estate	7	1.8%	25	4	2-7
Restaurant	34	8.8%	136	3.5	2-10
Retail	43	11.1%	166	3	2-11
School	12	3.1%	47	3	2-11
Service provider	18	4.6%	114	4.5	2-21
Shelter	<5	n/a	52	5	2-40
Social Event	<5	n/a	34	6.5	5-16
Transportation	5	1.3%	30	4	2-14
Warehouse	<5	n/a	11	5.5	5-6
Grand Total	388	100.0%	2,605	3	1-184

Table 2: Healthcare associated COVID-19 outbreaks by site, March - December 11, 2020

Site	Number	Percent	Number of cases	Median	Range
Long-term care facility	74	19.1%	996	3	1-184
Adult family home	29	7.5%	106	2	1-11
Healthcare provider	9	2.3%	24	3	2-4
Home health	<5	n/a	24	4	3-17
Dental	<5	n/a	<5	N/A	N/A
Emergency services	<5	n/a	9	4.5	4-5
Grand Total	118	100.0%	1,161	3	1-184

Figure 3: Healthcare associated COVID-19 outbreaks by month, March - December 11, 2020

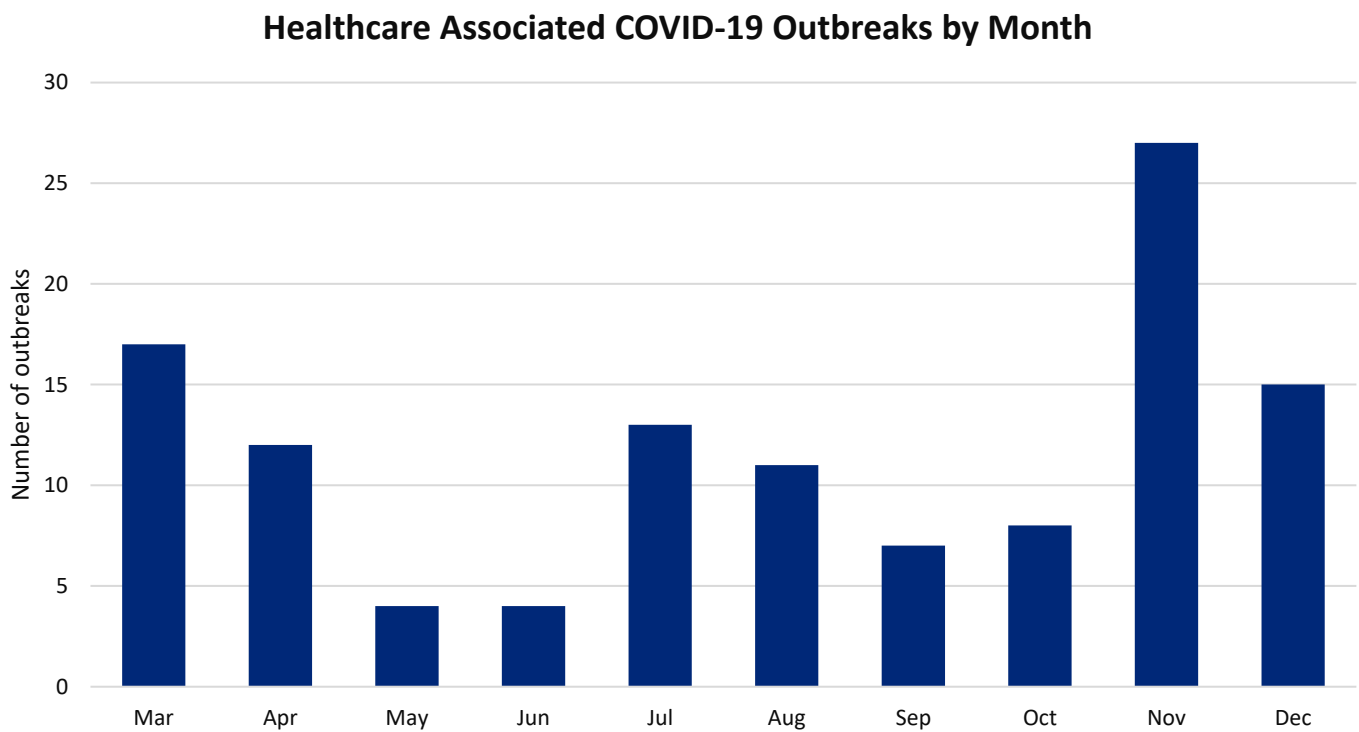


Table 3: Non-healthcare associated COVID-19 outbreaks by site, March - December 11, 2020

Site	Number	Percent	Number of cases	Median	Range
Retail	43	15.9%	166	3	2-11
Restaurant	34	12.6%	136	3.5	2-10
Construction	31	11.5%	106	3	2-8
Childcare	27	10.0%	103	3	2-13
Manufacturing	26	9.6%	116	4	2-11
Service provider	17	6.3%	114	4.5	2-21
School	12	4.4%	47	3	2-11
Food processing	11	4.1%	40	3	2-7
Government	8	3.0%	66	3.5	2-32
Leisure/recreation	7	2.6%	45	8	2-10
Real estate	7	2.6%	25	4	2-7
Personal Care and Services	5	1.9%	16	2	2-7
Transportation	5	1.9%	30	4	2-14
Landscaping	5	1.9%	23	4	3-6
Education	<5	n/a	13	3.5	2-4
Social Event	<5	n/a	34	6.5	5-16
Shelter	<5	n/a	52	5	2-40
Faith based services	<5	n/a	18	4.5	2-7
Financial Institution	<5	n/a	7	2	2-3
Corrections	<5	n/a	105	4	398
Warehouse	<5	n/a	11	5.5	5-6
Bar	<5	n/a	8	4	2-6
Fitness	<5	n/a	9	N/A	N/A
Law enforcement	<5	n/a	<5	N/A	N/A
Agriculture	<5	n/a	<5	N/A	N/A
Distribution	<5	n/a	5	N/A	N/A
Community	<5	n/a	141	N/A	N/A
Grand Total	270	100.0%	1,444	3	2-141

Figure 4: Non-healthcare associated COVID-19 outbreaks by month, March - December 11, 2020

