

## **Snohomish County COVID-19 Outbreaks**

**January 15, 2021**

COVID-19 facility and employer outbreaks have been occurring in Snohomish County since March 2020. As of January 15, 2021, there have been 536 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 manufacturing, 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 laboratory-positive (PCR or antigen) case of COVID-19 in a resident, OR
2. Two laboratory-positive (PCR or antigen) cases of COVID-19 in staff members, OR
3. One resident with severe respiratory infection resulting in hospitalization or death, OR
4. 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 163 healthcare associated outbreaks which accounted for 1,399 cases of COVID-19 (table 2). Over half 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 and December 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 373 non-healthcare outbreaks involving 2,170 cases of COVID-19 (table 3). Retail locations were the most common site of COVID-19 outbreak. There were 69 retail-associated outbreaks involving 299 cases. Other common sites of employment-associated outbreaks were manufacturing (n=42), restaurants (n=41), construction sites (n=36), and childcares (n=35). Non-healthcare outbreaks continued increasing through December 2020 (figure 3).

Figure 1: Snohomish County COVID-19 outbreaks by site March 2020 – January 15, 2021

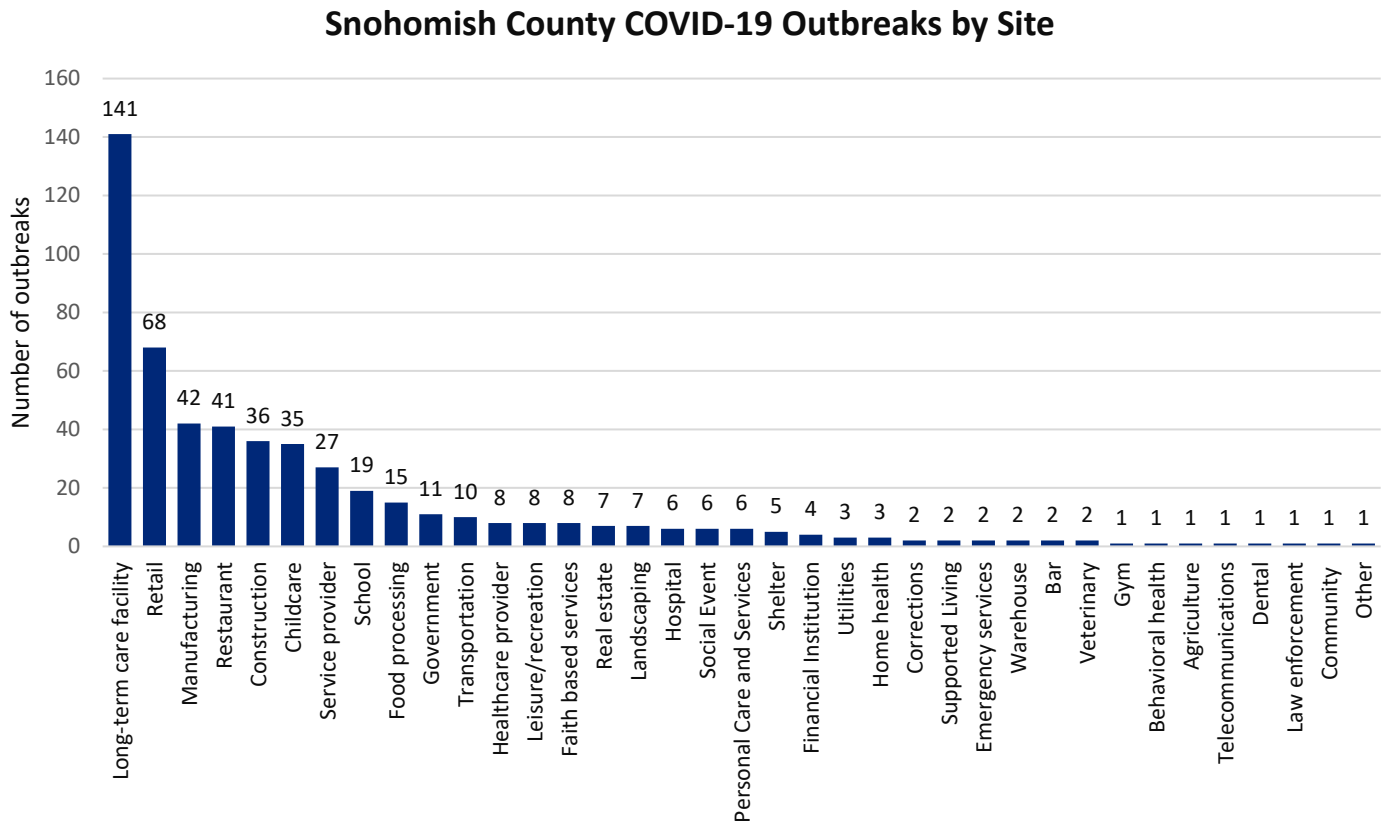
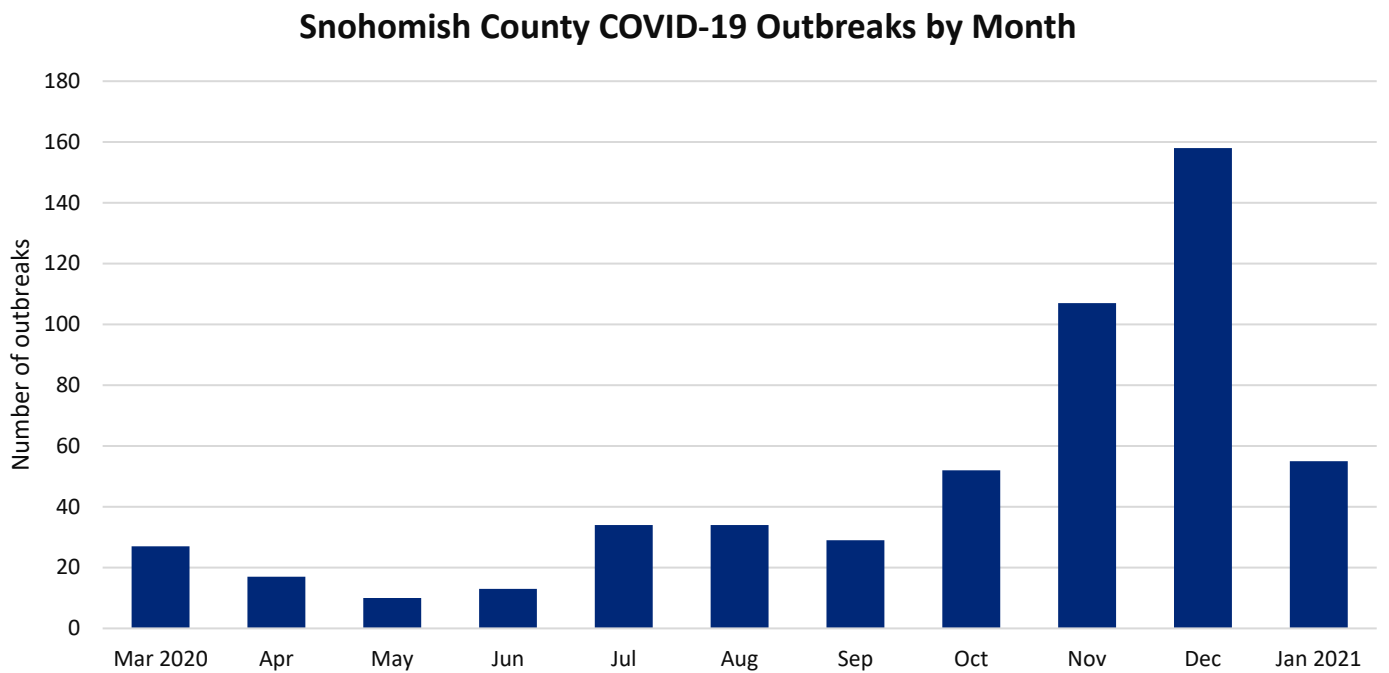


Figure 2: COVID-19 outbreaks by month, March 2020 – January 15, 2021

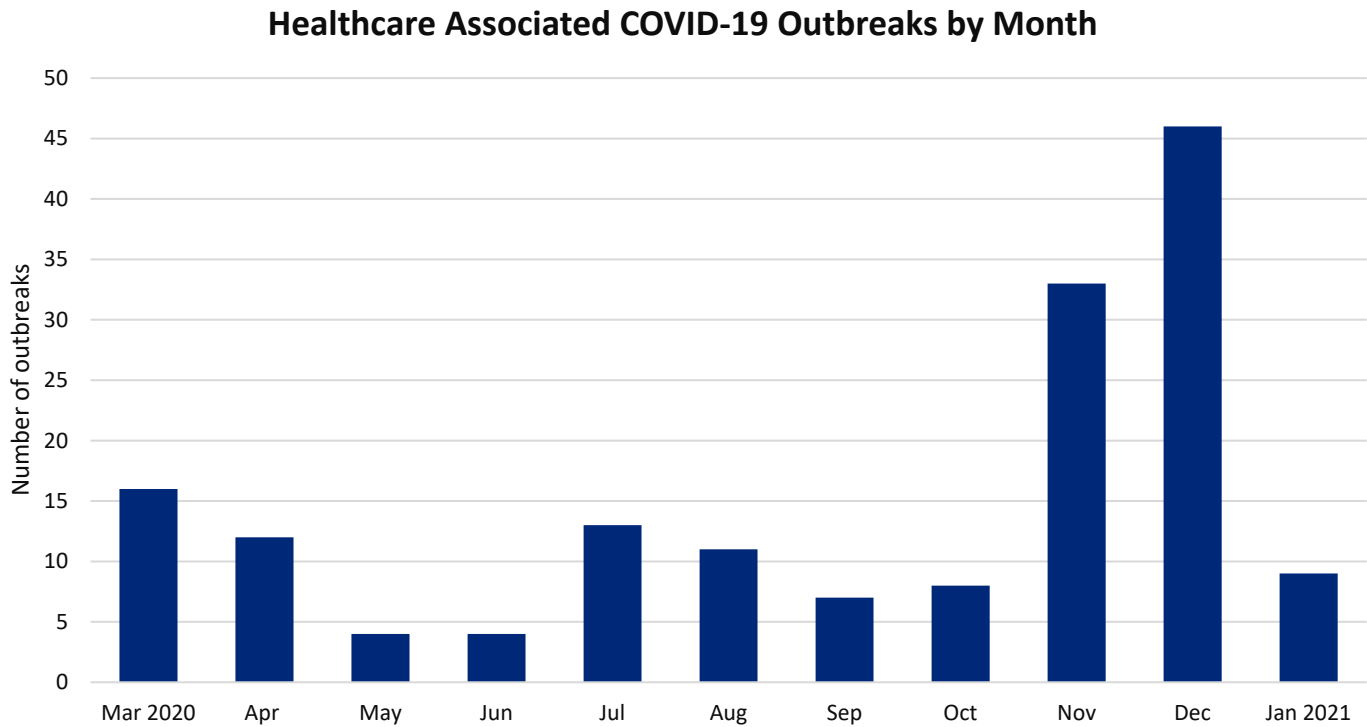


Note: data for January is incomplete as of this writing. 55 outbreak events identified from January 1-15, 2021.

Table 1: Healthcare associated COVID-19 outbreaks by site, March 2020 – January 15, 2021

Site	Number	Percent	Number of cases	Median	Range
Long-term care facility	88	55.3%	1126	3.5	1-184
Adult family home	53	32.7%	173	2	1-11
Healthcare provider	8	4.4%	22	2.5	2-5
Hospital	6	3.8%	36	5.5	2-10
Home health	3	1.9%	24	4	4-17
Emergency services	2	1.3%	9	4.5	4-5
Supported Living	2	0.0%	7	3.5	2-5
Dental	1	0.6%	2	N/A	N/A
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>1,399</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1-184</b>

Figure 3: Healthcare associated COVID-19 outbreaks by month, March 2020 – January 15, 2021

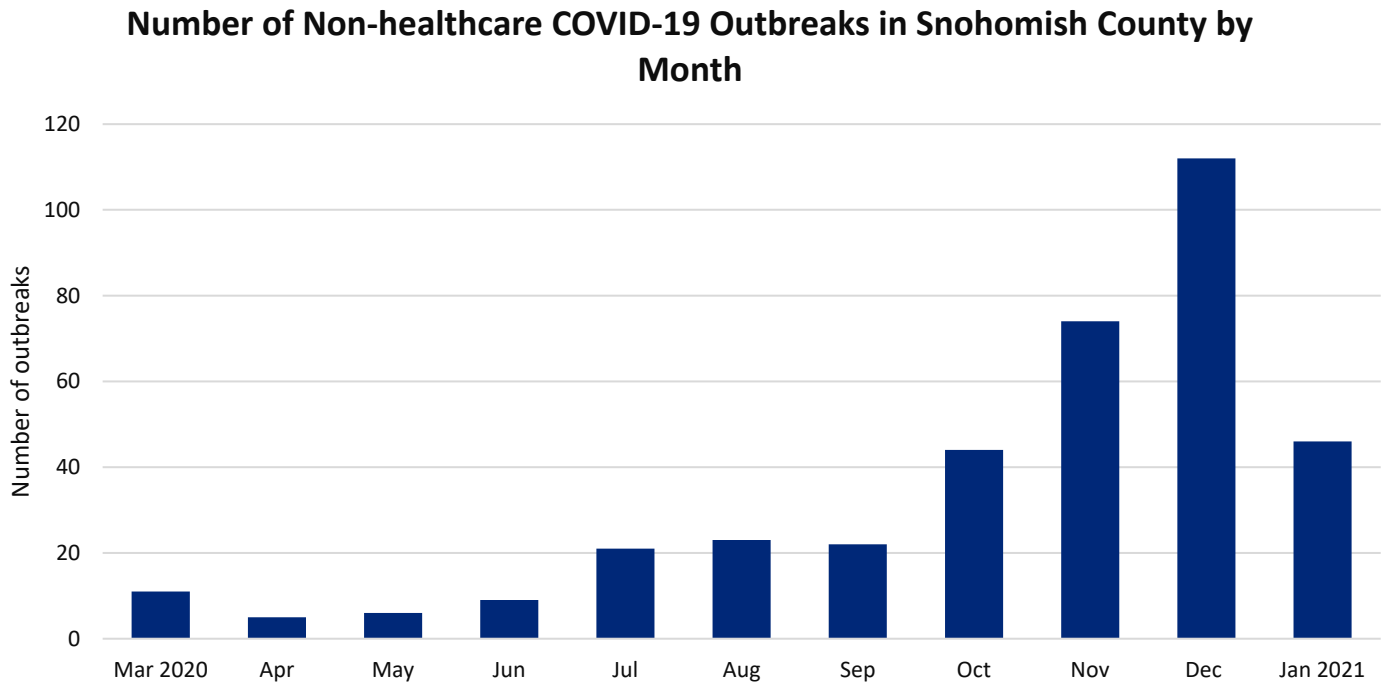


*Note: data for January is incomplete as of this writing. 55 outbreak events identified from January 1-15, 2021.*

Table 3: Non-healthcare associated COVID-19 outbreaks by site, March 2020 – January 15, 2021

Site	Number	Percent	Number of cases	Median	Range
Retail	69	18.5%	299	3	2-16
Manufacturing	42	11.3%	282	4	2-31
Restaurant	41	11.0%	179	3	2-17
Construction	36	9.7%	127	3	2-10
Childcare	35	9.4%	132	3	2-15
Service provider	30	8.0%	160	3	2-24
School	19	5.1%	76	3	2-12
Food processing	15	4.0%	52	3	2-7
Government	11	2.9%	96	3	2-49
Transportation	10	2.7%	57	4	2-14
Faith based services	8	2.1%	41	3.5	2-12
Leisure/recreation	8	2.1%	79	11	2-23
Real estate	7	1.9%	33	4	2-9
Landscaping	7	1.9%	25	4	2-7
Social Event	6	1.6%	50	5	5-22
Personal Care and Services	6	1.6%	18	2	2-7
Shelter	5	1.3%	54	4	2-40
Financial Institution	4	1.1%	9	2	2-3
Veterinary	2	0.5%	13	6.5	4-9
Bar	2	0.5%	8	4	2-6
Warehouse	2	0.5%	11	5.5	5-6
Corrections	2	0.5%	202	101	7-195
Gym	1	0.3%	9	N/A	N/A
Utilities	1	0.3%	5	N/A	N/A
Community	1	0.3%	5	N/A	N/A
Behavioral health	1	0.3%	141	N/A	N/A
Agriculture	1	0.3%	4	N/A	N/A
Law enforcement	1	0.3%	4	N/A	N/A
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>373</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>2,170</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2-195</b>

Figure 4: Non-healthcare associated COVID-19 outbreaks by month, March 2020 – January 15, 2021



*Note: data for January is incomplete as of this writing. 55 outbreak events identified from January 1-15, 2021.*