

## Snohomish County COVID-19 Outbreaks

### March 2020 – September 2021

COVID-19 facility and employer outbreaks have been occurring in Snohomish County since March 2020. As of September 30, 2021, there have been 1,244 outbreaks reported. Long-term care facilities (LTCF), including adult family homes, are the most common site of COVID outbreaks (figure 1). The second most common sites are retail locations, followed by manufacturing, schools, and service providers.

Compared to the previous month, the number of outbreaks were up in September 2021 (figures 2 & 3). There was a total of 176 outbreaks compared to only 88 outbreak events in August 2021. This increase has been driven by school outbreaks as students returned to in-person learning at the beginning of September.

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 244 healthcare associated outbreaks which accounted for 2,168 cases of COVID-19 (figure 4, tables 1 & 2). Over half of all healthcare associated outbreaks were in long-term care facilities (skilled nursing and assisted living). The next most common site of healthcare associated outbreaks is adult family homes (29%). Healthcare workers and residents of LTCFs and adult family homes were among the first groups eligible to receive COVID-19 vaccine. These early efforts, along with strict infection control guidelines, have kept healthcare-associated outbreaks down compared to non-healthcare associated outbreaks.

Non-healthcare outbreaks consist of childcares, places of employment, faith-based organizations, community, and social events. A non-healthcare outbreaks are 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.

Schools are a unique community consisting of staff and students. Schools have their own outbreak definition:

Multiple probable or confirmed COVID-19 cases comprising at least 10% of students, teachers, or staff within a specified core group<sup>1</sup> OR

- At least 3 cases within a specified core group<sup>1</sup> meeting criteria for a probable or confirmed COVID-19 case; AND
- Cases have symptom onset or positive test result within 14 days of each other, AND
- Cases were not identified as close contacts of each other in another setting (i.e., household) outside of the school setting, AND

- Cases were epidemiologically linked in the school setting or a school-sanctioned extracurricular activity<sup>2</sup>
  1. A “core group” includes but is not limited to extracurricular activity, cohort group, classroom, before/after school care, etc.
  2. A school-sanctioned extracurricular activity is defined as a voluntary activity sponsored by the school or local education agency (LEA) or an organization sanctioned by the LEA. Extracurricular activities include, but are not limited to, preparation for and involvement in public performances, contests, athletic competitions, demonstrations, displays, and club activities.

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

There has been a total of 1,003 non-healthcare outbreaks involving 5,767 cases of COVID-19 (figure 5, tables 3 & 4). Retail locations were the most common site of COVID-19 outbreaks. There have been 154 retail outbreaks involving 662 cases. Other common sites of employment-associated outbreaks were manufacturing (n=127), schools (n=110), and service providers (n=105).

Figure 1: Snohomish County COVID-19 outbreaks by site March 2020 – September 2021

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

Figure 3: Snohomish County COVID-19 outbreaks by site, September 2021

## **Healthcare Associated Outbreaks:**

Figure 4: Healthcare associated COVID-19 outbreaks by month, March 2020 – September 2021

Table 1: Healthcare associated COVID-19 outbreaks by site, September 2021

Site	Number	Percent	Number of cases	Median	Range
LTCF (skilled nursing, assisted living)	10	59%	57	2	1-23
Adult family home	3	18%	5	2	1-2
Supported Living	2	12%	8	4	4
Healthcare provider	2	12%	4	2	2
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1-23</b>

Table 2: Healthcare associated COVID-19 outbreaks by site, March 2020 – September 2021

Site	Number	Percent	Number of cases	Median	Range
LTCF (skilled nursing, assisted living)	130	54%	1,733	4	1-195
Adult family home	70	29%	233	2	1-11
Healthcare provider (includes dental)	19	7%	50	2	2-5
Hospital	7	3%	42	6	2-10
Behavioral health	5	2%	31	4	2-16
Emergency services	5	2%	25	5	4-6
Supported Living	4	1%	28	4.5	4-15
Home health	4	2%	26	3.5	2-17
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>2,018</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1-195</b>

**Non-Healthcare Associated Outbreaks:**

Figure 5: Non-healthcare associated COVID-19 outbreaks by month, March 2020 – September 2021

Table 3: Non-healthcare associated COVID-19 outbreaks by site September 2021

Site	Number	Percent	Number of cases	Median	Range
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School	64	39%	486	6	3-21
Retail	22	13%	88	3.5	2-13
Service provider	19	11%	60	3	2-5
Restaurant	16	10%	55	3	2-7
Childcare	12	7%	52	4	2-9
Manufacturing	8	5%	28	2.5	2-10
Construction	5	3%	12	2	2-3
Government	4	2%	18	5	2-6
Utilities	3	2%	14	4	3-7
Leisure/recreation	2	1%	4	2	2
Agriculture	2	1%	8	4	3-5
Youth Sports	2	1%	14	7	6-8
Faith based services	1	1%	7	---	---
Social Event	1	1%	6	---	---
Transportation	1	1%	5	---	---
Distribution	1	1%	3	---	---
Food processing	1	1%	3	---	---
Camp	1	1%	2	---	---
Personal Care and Services	1	1%	2	---	---
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>317</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2-24</b>

Table 4: Non-healthcare associated COVID-19 outbreaks by site, March 2020 – September 2021

Site	Number	Percent	Number of cases	Median	Range
Retail	154	15%	662	3	2-20
Manufacturing	127	13%	595	3	2-31
School	110	11%	662	5	3-21
Service provider	105	10%	399	3	2-17
Restaurant	103	10%	426	3	2-17
Construction	87	9%	300	3	2-12
Childcare	73	7%	312	3	2-15
Faith based services	36	4%	357	7	2-28
Social Event	28	3%	210	6	5-22
Government	23	2%	176	4	2-74
Leisure/recreation	21	2%	142	3	2-38
Food processing	19	2%	68	3	2-9
Utilities	18	2%	115	4	2-24
Personal Care and Services	15	1%	42	2	2-7
Real estate	13	1%	43	3	2-7
Distribution	12	1%	63	5	2-10
Landscaping	11	1%	48	4	2-9
Financial Institution	9	1%	26	3	2-4
Transportation	8	1%	55	4.5	2-21
Agriculture	7	1%	23	3	2-5

Shelter	6	1%	54	3.5	2-37
Bar	5	0%	38	6	2-18
Youth Sports	5	0%	33	6	6-8
Gym	3	0%	16	4	3-9
Corrections	2	0%	754	377	14-740
Camp	2	0%	7	3.5	2-5
Community	1	0%	141	---	---
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1,003</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>5,767</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2-740</b>