

Snohomish County COVID-19 Outbreaks

March 2020 – October 2021

COVID-19 facility and employer outbreaks have been occurring in Snohomish County since March 2020. As of October 31, 2021, there have been 1,373 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 down in October compared to the previous month. (figures 2 & 3). There was a total of 98 outbreaks compared to 193 outbreak events in September 2021. September outbreaks were driven by school outbreaks as students returned to in-person learning. Outbreaks dropped to more normal levels in October.

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 259 healthcare associated outbreaks which accounted for 2,237 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 (30%).

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 group¹ OR

- At least 3 cases within a specified core group¹ 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 activity²

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 1,114 non-healthcare outbreaks involving 6,553 cases of COVID-19 (figure 5, tables 3 & 4). Retail locations were the most common site of COVID-19 outbreaks. There have been 176 retail outbreaks involving 755 cases. Other common sites of employment-associated outbreaks were manufacturing (n=163), schools (n=132), and service providers (n=110).

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

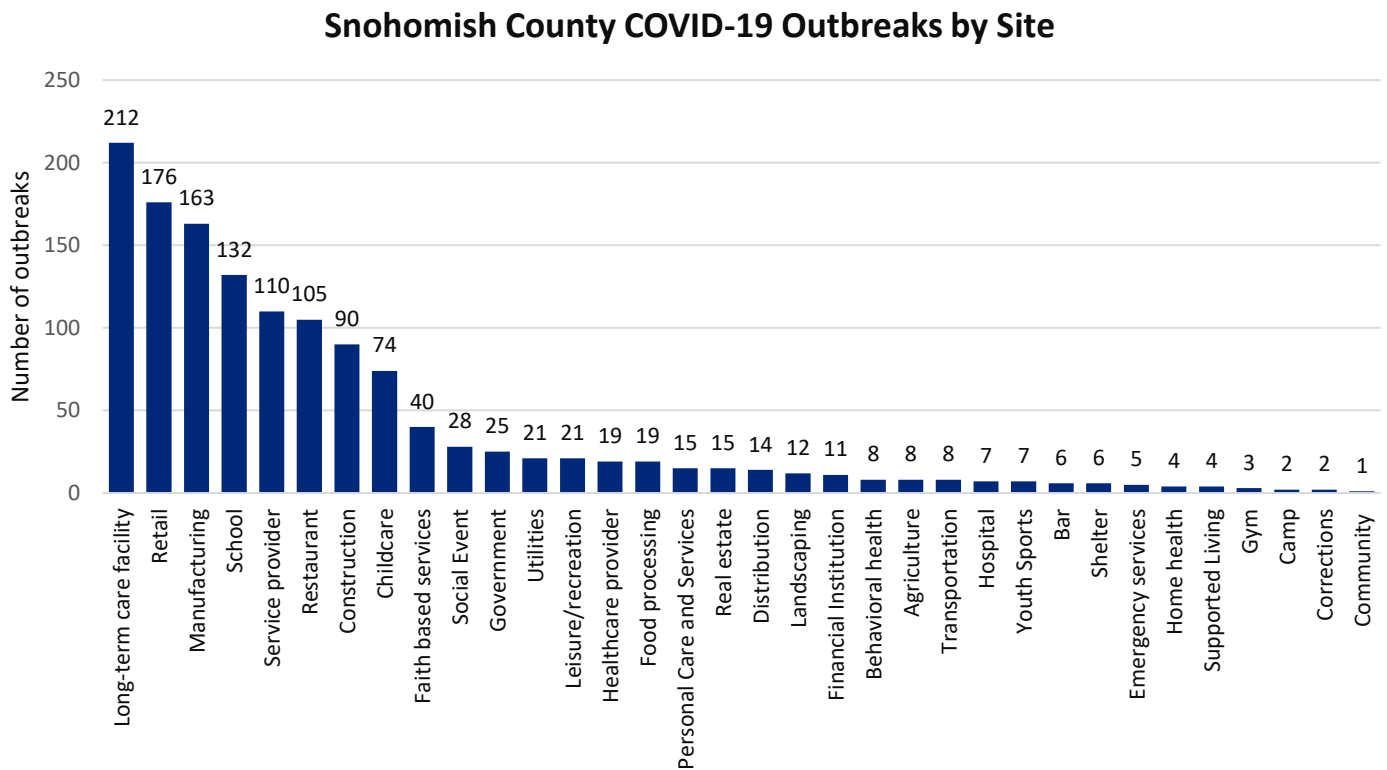


Figure 2: COVID-19 outbreaks by month, March 2020 – October 2021

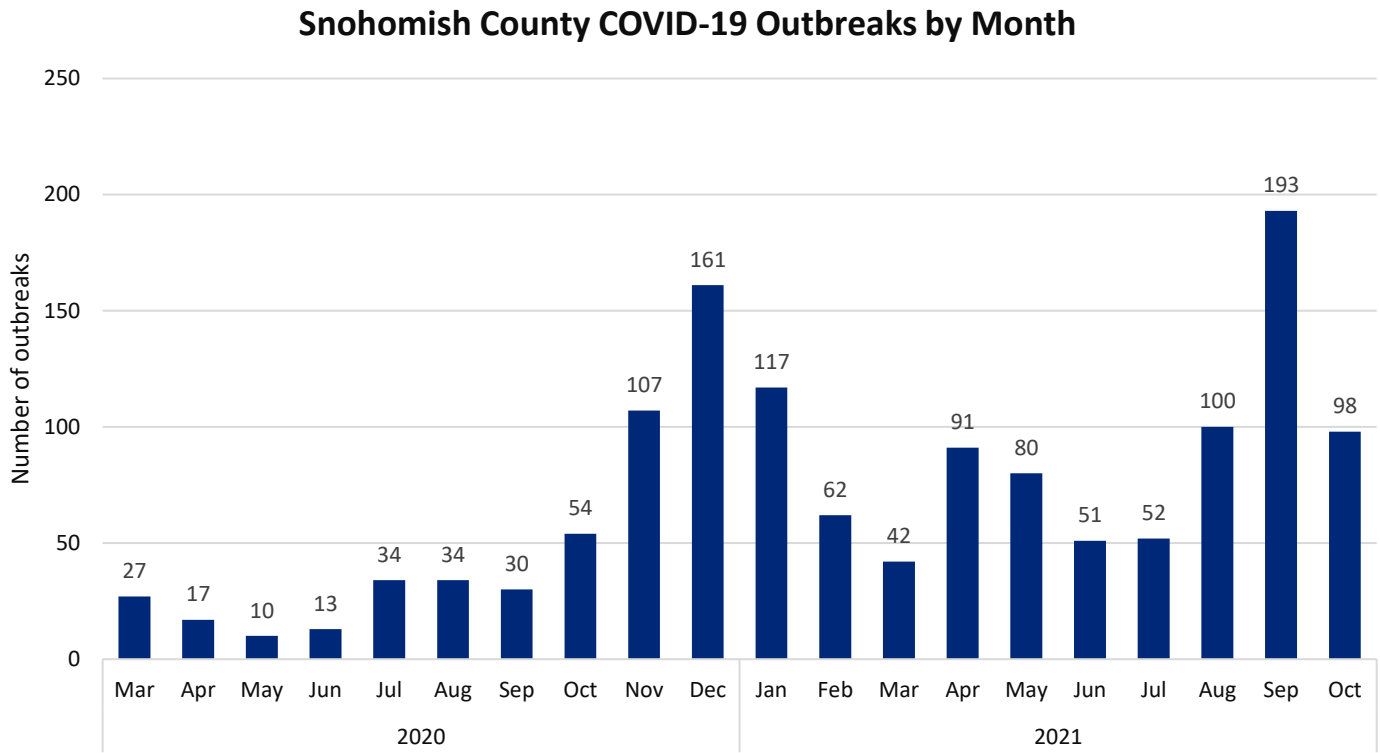
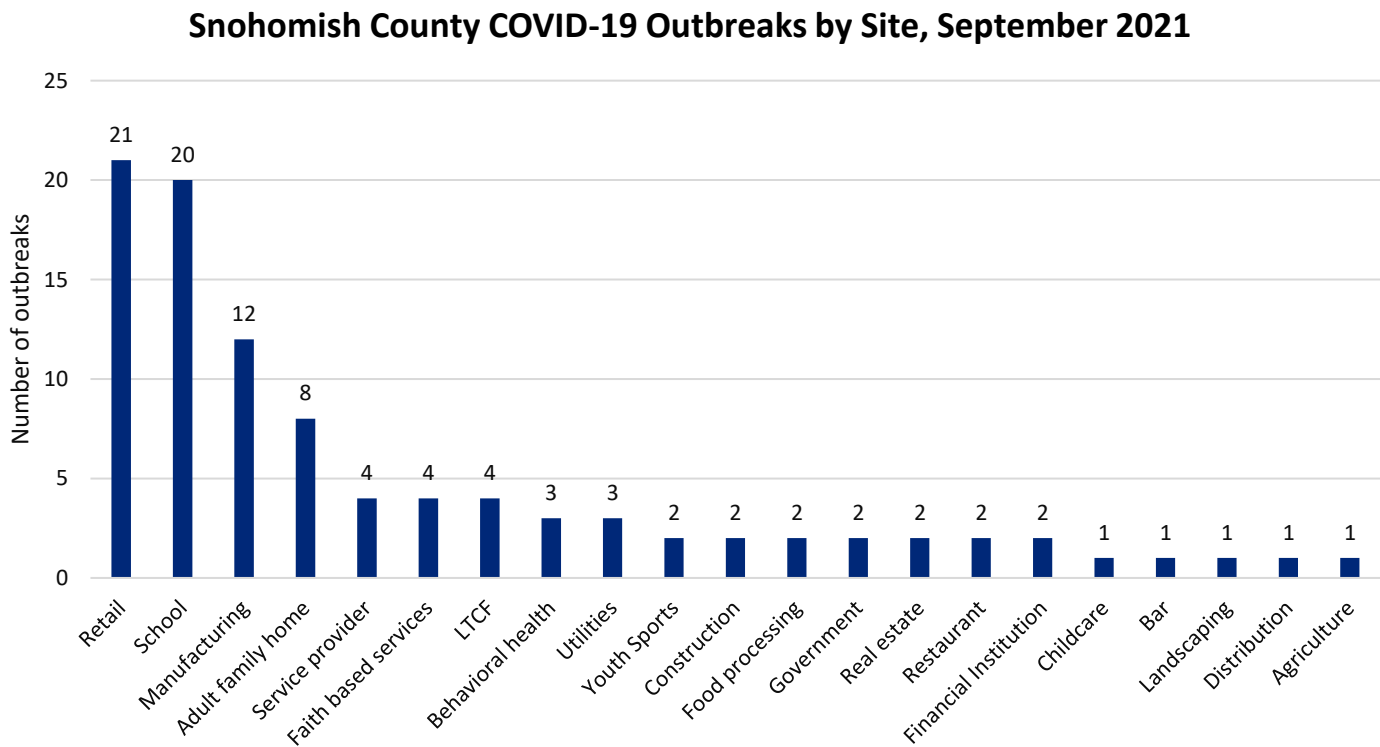


Figure 3: Snohomish County COVID-19 outbreaks by site, October 2021



Healthcare Associated Outbreaks:

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

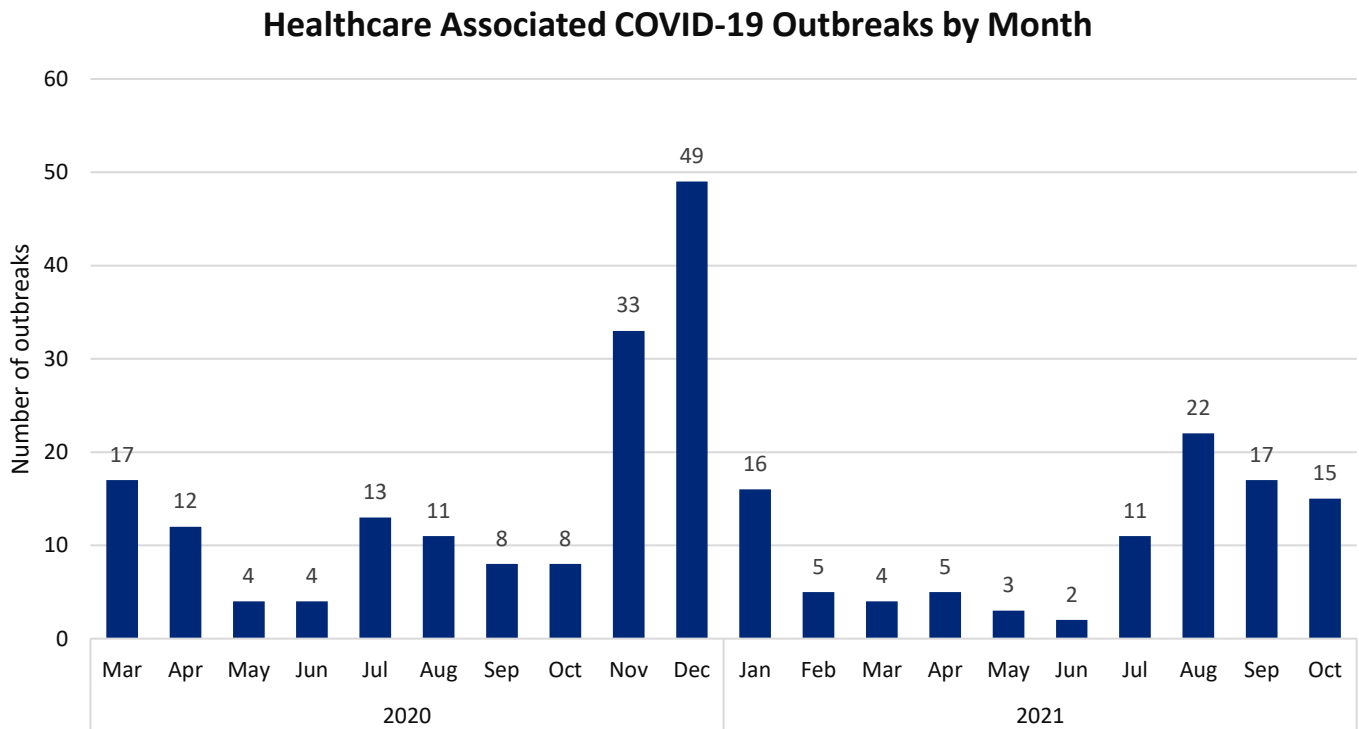


Table 1: Healthcare associated COVID-19 outbreaks by site, October 2021

Site	Number	Percent	Number of cases	Median	Range
Adult family home	8	53%	25	2.5	1-9
LTCF (skilled nursing, assisted living)	4	27%	25	2	1-20
Behavioral Health	3	20%	13	2	2-9
Grand Total	15	100%	63	2	1-20

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

Site	Number	Percent	Number of cases	Median	Range
LTCF (skilled nursing, assisted living)	134	52%	1,764	4	1-195
Adult family home	78	30%	258	2	1-11
Healthcare provider (includes dental)	19	7%	50	2	2-5
Behavioral health	8	3%	44	4	2-16
Hospital	7	3%	42	4	2-10
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
Grand Total	259	100%	2,018	3	1-195

Non-Healthcare Associated Outbreaks:

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

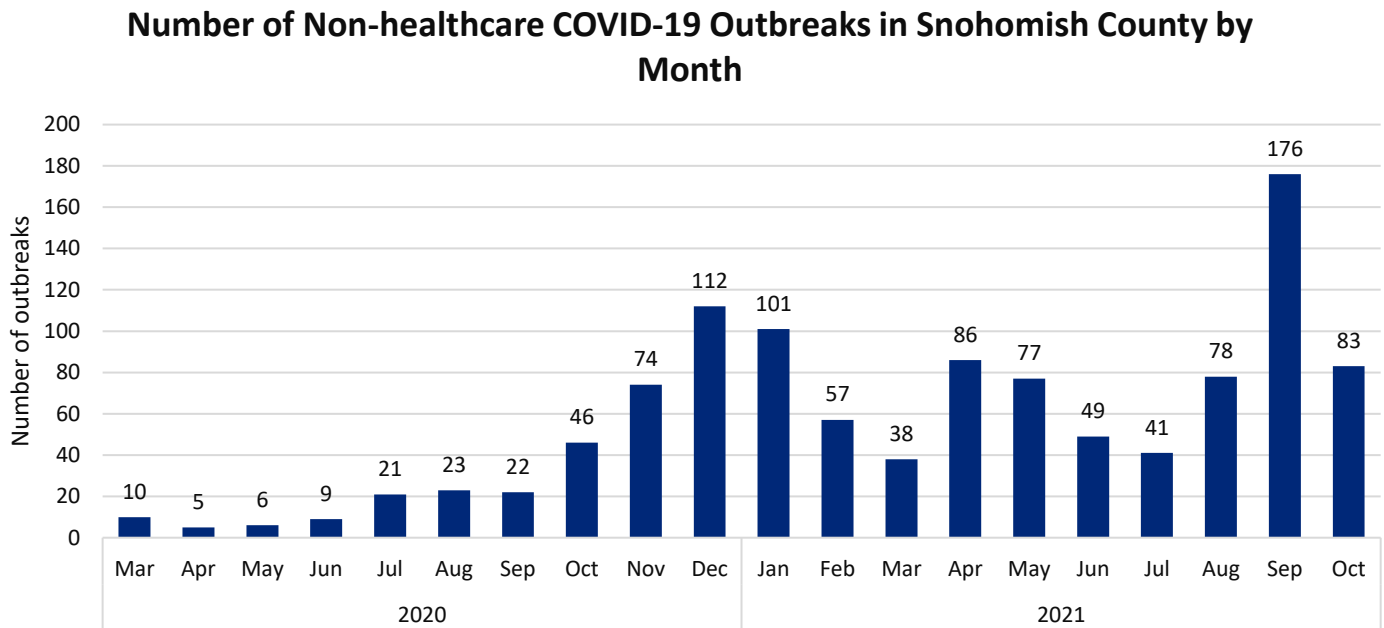


Table 3: Non-healthcare associated COVID-19 outbreaks by site October 2021

Site	Number	Percent	Number of cases	Median	Range
Retail	21	25%	73	<5	2-6
School	20	24%	169	6.5	4-21
Manufacturing	12	14%	46	<5	2-11
Service provider	4	5%	12	<5	2-6
Faith based services	4	5%	20	<5	2-8
Utilities	3	4%	11	<5	2-7
Youth Sports	2	2%	24	12	5-9
Construction	2	2%	5	2.5	2-3
Food processing	2	2%	18	9	2-16
Financial Institution	2	2%	7	<5	3-4
Real estate	2	2%	13	6.5	4-9
Restaurant	2	2%	<5	<5	<5
Government	2	2%	10	5	2-8
Bar	1	1%	<5	---	---
Agriculture	1	1%	<5	---	---
Distribution	1	1%	<5	---	---
Landscaping	1	1%	<5	---	---
Childcare	1	1%	<5	---	---
Grand Total	83	100%	426	4	2-21

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

Site	Number	Percent	Number of cases	Median	Range
Retail	176	16%	775	3	2-20
Manufacturing	163	15%	714	3	2-31
School	132	12%	1,052	6	2-32
Service provider	110	10%	422	3	2-17
Restaurant	105	9%	430	3	2-17
Construction	90	8%	309	3	2-12
Childcare	74	7%	320	3	2-15
Faith based services	40	4%	377	7	2-28
Social Event	28	3%	210	6	5-22
Government	25	2%	187	4	2-74
Utilities	21	2%	140	4	2-36
Leisure/recreation	21	2%	142	3	2-38
Food processing	19	2%	75	3	2-16
Real estate	15	1%	56	3	2-9
Personal Care and Services	15	1%	42	2	2-7
Distribution	14	1%	70	4.5	2-10
Landscaping	12	1%	50	3.5	2-9
Financial Institution	11	1%	33	3	2-4
Agriculture	8	1%	27	3.5	2-5
Transportation	8	1%	64	5.5	2-21
Youth Sports	7	1%	57	7	6-15
Shelter	6	1%	54	3.5	2-37
Bar	6	1%	40	4.5	2-18
Gym	3	0%	16	4	3-9
Camp	2	0%	7	3.5	2-5
Corrections	2	0%	763	381.5	14-749
Community	1	0%	141	---	---
Grand Total	1,114	100%	6,553	3.5	2-749