COVID-19 Outbreak Data Guide

District of Columbia

Data Notes:

Outbreaks are defined by the following criteria:

1) Two or more laboratory-confirmed cases of COVID-19
2) Plausible epidemiological evidence of transmission is observed in a shared location other than a household

Data are collected in two ways:

1) Case investigations initiated by reporting from community settings including interviews with the business.
2) Interviews of individual COVID-19 cases where information on the location by address and time of visit is collected. The data reported here are from the results of the case investigations and an analysis of case interview data. From our data collection, an algorithm identifies potential interactions between positive cases during their exposure or infectious period. If a plausible epidemiological link is identified (>15 minutes of cumulative exposure time in the same immediate vicinity regardless of whether either person was wearing a mask), it is considered an outbreak.

Other information:

- Data are subject to change due to ongoing investigations and data quality improvements.
- The university category includes the entire campus, other college/university-owned buildings, as well as off-campus residences in which students live.
- The school building category includes all staff and students involved in any activities in the building in and out of the classroom, such as community services and sports.
- Congregate residential buildings include homeless shelters, community residential facilities, and supported living. It does not include apartment buildings, condominiums, or cooperatives.
- The place of worship category includes persons involved in activities both within the building (e.g. prayer services, communion, sacraments, services, meetings), on its premises (e.g. service held outside), and offsite activities (e.g. food distribution locations, volunteer activities).
- Personal care services include hair salons, barber shops, nail salons, waxing centers, spas, etc.
- Healthcare settings and correctional facilities are excluded.

Example Interpretations

The table below shows the overall number of outbreaks for selected community settings in DC, excluding healthcare facilities (e.g., nursing homes and hospitals), and correctional facilities. For example, between the period of July 31st, 2020 and February 11th, 2021, there were a total of 151 outbreaks in the settings below.

Outbreaks from Selected Settings in the District of Columbia between July 31, 2020 – February 17, 2021
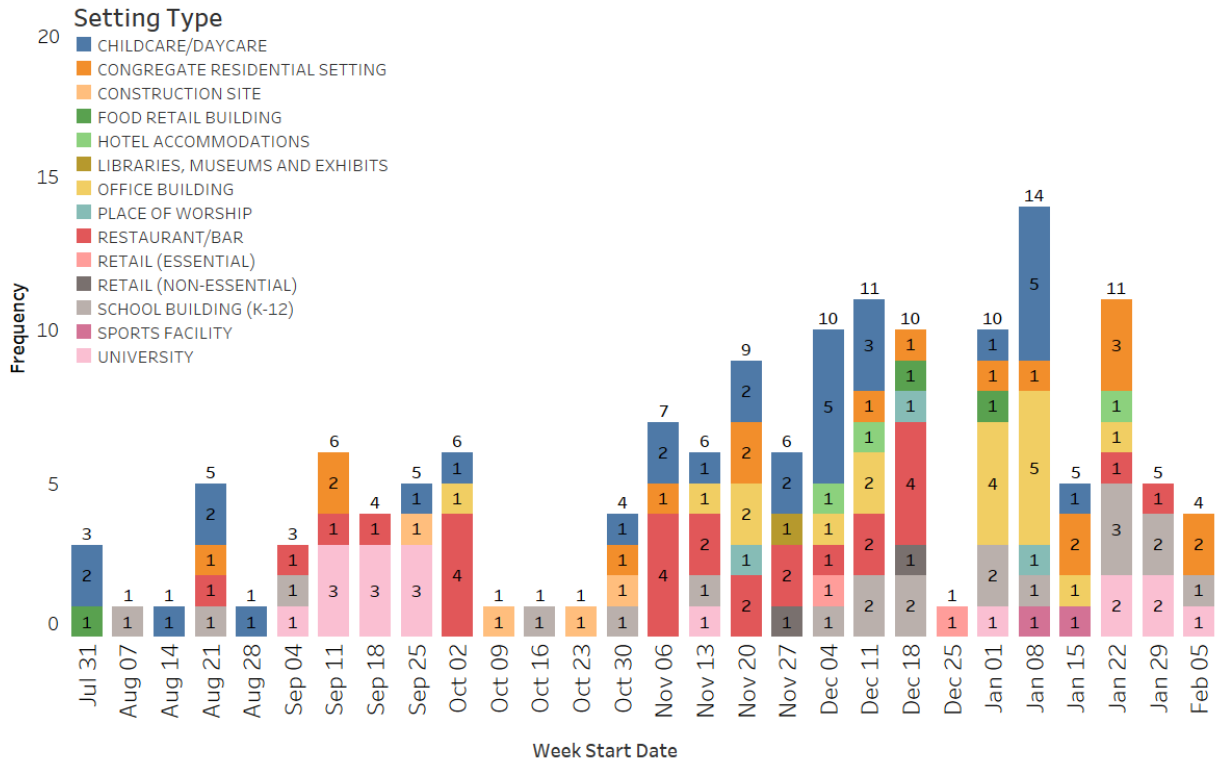
Setting Type	Number of Outbreaks
CHILDCARE/DAYCARE	31
CONGREGATE RESIDENTIAL SETTING	18
CONSTRUCTION SITE	4
FOOD RETAIL BUILDING	3
HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS	3
LIBRARIES, MUSEUMS AND EXHIBITS	1
OFFICE BUILDING	18
PLACE OF WORSHIP	3
RESTAURANT/BAR	27
RETAIL (ESSENTIAL)	2
RETAIL (NON-ESSENTIAL)	2
SCHOOL BUILDING (K-12)	20
SPORTS FACILITY	2
UNIVERSITY	17

*This data does not reflect total outbreaks across all settings in DC.
**Data subject to change due to ongoing investigations and data quality improvements. See the Data Guide for category definitions and detailed information.

The following figure shows the total number of outbreaks per week, by setting type. For example, during the week of January 8th through January 14th, there were a total of 14 outbreaks, 5 of which were connected to Childcare/Daycare settings.

Number of Outbreaks by Setting Type and Week

Data Source: DC Health