



## Community COVID-19 Outbreak Definitions

A **workplace outbreak** is defined by the [Ministry of Health](#) as 2 or more laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases in staff with an epidemiological link (e.g., same work area, same shift) within a 14-day period where at least 2 cases could have reasonably acquired their infection in the workplace. OPH adopted workplace sub-categories to better describe these outbreaks while maintaining the anonymity of businesses where regulations are being followed and the outbreak does not pose a risk to the public; contact tracing notifies high-risk contacts of the specific location. Table 1 provides hypothetical examples of these categories (only those which have had outbreaks appear on the dashboard).

**Table 1. Examples of workplace outbreak dashboard subcategories**

Subcategory	Examples
Agriculture	Vegetable farm, greenhouses, dairy farm etc.
Bar/nightclub/pub	Club, bar, pub etc. where main business is to serve alcohol to the public to drink onsite
Construction	Building, plumbing, electrical, renovations etc.
Corporate/Office	Office building, financial institution, call centre etc.
Distribution	Package or food delivery service, trucking etc.
Food Processing	Bakery, brewery, dairy – all food premises other than retail and restaurant
Health	Dentist, veterinarian, physician community office, physiotherapy clinic, laboratory. Excludes categories listed in healthcare institutions.
Hotel/Bed & Breakfast	Short term rentals, hotels, B&B etc.
Manufacturing/Industrial	Manufacturing of non-food parts and products
Restaurant	Fast-food, full-service or take-out restaurant that sells and serves food to the public for consumption indoors, outdoors or offsite
Recreation	Staff in recreation or after school programs
Retail	Grocery store, pharmacy, mall etc.
Services	Tattoo parlour, hair salon, spa, pet grooming, auto-repair, landscaping etc.
Theatre/Cinema/Entertainment	Movie or art theatre, amusement park, banquet hall etc.
Transportation	Light rail, bus, ride share, taxi etc.
Warehouse	Distribution centre etc. not open to the public
Other	Funeral home etc. not otherwise categorized above

**Note:** Outbreak categories are mutually exclusive. Subcategory only appears on the dashboard if an outbreak has been declared in that subcategory.

Public health is only required to formally declare community outbreaks (i.e., non-institutional) in workplace settings, but has chosen to declare outbreaks in other settings when there is more risk to the public, there are challenges in contact tracing, and/or capacity allows. There are no specific

definitions for community outbreaks from the Ministry of Health, but public health units are advised to apply standard epidemiological definitions. Since October 1st 2020, OPH has defined non-workplace **community outbreaks** (excluding post-secondary institutions)<sup>1</sup> as five or more laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases from at least two different households with an epidemiological link (e.g., connection in person, place, and time) in the setting within a 14-day period where at least four of the cases could have reasonably acquired their infection in the setting.

- For example, five players were at the same sports practice and one player (index case) who acquired infection from a household contact attended the sports practice while symptomatic. The next day the index case tested positive for COVID-19 and 5 days later 4 teammates from 4 different households also tested positive. The players did not have any other contact aside from the sports practice and no other identified exposures to COVID-19. This would be reported as a community sports and recreation outbreak.
- Table 2 provides more examples of the subcategories.

Since December 31, 2020, these settings and subcategories have been included on the OPH COVID-19 Dashboard in the interest of transparency and risk communication.

**Table 2. Examples of non-workplace community outbreak dashboard settings**

<b>Setting - Subcategory</b>	<b>Examples</b>
Community Organization	Attended same social or volunteer club meeting
Multi-Unit Dwelling	Live in same apartment/ condominium/dormitory building and most likely transmission in common area (e.g., elevator)
Post-Secondary Institution <sup>1</sup>	In-person class or lab, excludes dormitories (multi-unit dwellings)
Religious/Spiritual Organization	Attended same service or meeting
Social Event – Public setting	Attended same one-time event such as a dinner, wedding or festival held in a public setting, such as a restaurant, banquet hall, public park, or other venue with an owner/operator
Social Event – Private Setting	Attended same one-time event such as a birthday party held in a private setting such as a home
Sports and Recreation	Attended same sport team practice (e.g., hockey, soccer, other), fitness class, or club practice (e.g., gymnastics, dance, other)

<sup>1</sup> An outbreak in a post-secondary institution (excluding dormitories), in alignment with outbreaks in other schools, is defined as two or more lab-confirmed COVID-19 cases in students and/or staff (or other visitors) in an institution with an epidemiological link (e.g. same class, same lab), within a 14-day period, where at least one case could have reasonably acquired their infection in school.