



# Yakima Health District

## Media Release

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### **COVID-19 Outbreaks in Yakima County**

**Yakima, WA-** COVID-19 outbreaks continue to occur in Yakima County, especially in congregate living facilities. On October 20, 2021, there were 16 active COVID outbreaks in Yakima County, of which, five are from assisted living facilities and five are from long term care facilities. The other six outbreaks are from an addiction treatment center, a jail, a wildfire camp, a homeless shelter, a moving company and a golf club.

All COVID-19 outbreaks are significant but are especially concerning when in congregate settings because the virus can spread quickly between individuals who live together. The Yakima Health District (YHD) continues to work with facilities that have outbreaks to provide education, guidance, and recommendations to slow the spread of COVID-19.

### **Sunnyside Assisted Living Facility**

On October 15, 2021, the Yakima Health District was notified of individuals who tested positive for COVID-19 at Sunnyside Assisted Living Facility (907 Ida Belle St, Sunnyside, WA 98944). As of October 20, there have been five staff members and 29 residents who had tested positive for COVID-19. The staff has enacted protocols to stop the spread of COVID-19. YHD has recommended that Sunnyside Assisted Living Facility implement the following:

- Cohort individuals who have had a positive COVID-19 test
- Cohort individuals who have been in close contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19
- Test residents and staff twice a week
- Continuously monitor residents and staff for symptoms of COVID-19
- Increase PPE usage for staff
- Increase testing for residents and staff

A site visit is scheduled at Sunnyside Assisted Living Facility by the YHD Outbreak Response Team. YHD will continue to monitor and be in communication with Sunnyside Assisted Living facility.

### **Importance of Following Public Health Recommendations**

These outbreaks serve as a reminder to the community about the importance of reducing community transmission to decrease the chances of COVID-19 being introduced in congregate settings. As Yakima County continues to experience high levels of community transmission, it is crucial that all community members follow public health recommendations to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in the community:

1. Get vaccinated for COVID-19 as soon as possible.
2. Wear a mask when in public indoor settings.
3. Wear a mask when in crowded outdoor settings.
4. Wash hands frequently and sanitize surfaces frequently.
5. Practice social distancing.



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6. Limit gatherings with those outside of your household or, if possible, gather virtually.
7. If an individual from a household gets infected with COVID-19, it is critical that the individual isolates at home away from all other household members.

## **Quote**

“COVID-19 cases and outbreaks are preventable, and we must continue to do our part to slow the spread of COVID-19. We want to help our healthcare system, which is already overburdened with many hospital admissions and ER visits. The number of hospital admissions and ER visits would be much closer to normal if there were fewer COVID-19 associated cases admitted to the hospitals. This extra burden to our healthcare system is preventable. Vaccination greatly reduces the chance of severe illness and hospital admission. Getting vaccinated and following public health recommendations is the best way to help our hospitals and health care providers.” -Dr. Neil Barg, Health Officer, Yakima Health District

## **Additional Information**

[www.YakimaTesting.org](http://www.YakimaTesting.org)

[www.YakimaVaccines.org](http://www.YakimaVaccines.org)

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