COVID-19 OUTBREAKS IN GROCERY SETTINGS

Office of Communicable Disease Epidemiology
AGENDA

1. Non-Healthcare Congregate Setting Team
2. Workplace Outbreak Definition
3. Grocery Setting Outbreaks Statistics
Non-Healthcare Congregate Setting Outbreak Program

- New program within Office of Communicable Disease Epidemiology
  - Focus on COVID-19 outbreaks in correctional facilities, agriculture facilities, schools, service-providing industries

- Provide subject matter expertise and epidemiological technical support for Local Health Jurisdictions (LHJ) in outbreak response
  - Develop setting-specific guidance
  - Provide surge capacity for outbreak investigation
  - Lead outbreak investigation for multi-jurisdictional outbreaks
  - Report on statewide COVID-19 outbreaks
COVID-19 Workplace Outbreaks

OVERVIEW
COVID-19 Outbreak Investigations

**Workplace Outbreak**

- LHJ notified
- LHJ initiates workplace outbreak investigation
- LHJ notifies DOH by entering an outbreak event into statewide surveillance system
COVID-19 GUIDANCE FOR NON-HEALTHCARE WORKPLACES

**Workplace cluster:**

- Two or more laboratory-positive (PCR or antigen) cases, **AND**
- At least two cases have onsets within 14 days of each other, **AND**
- Plausible epi-link in the workplace (e.g., case-patients work on the same shift or in the same building, or benefit from employee sponsored transportation or housing), **AND**
- No other known epidemiological link outside of the workplace (e.g., case-patients do not share a household, and there is no epi-link suggesting transmission is more likely to have occurred during private carpooling or social interactions outside of the workplace).

Grocery Setting Outbreaks in Washington State

SUMMARY STATISTICS
Total Non-healthcare setting outbreaks reported to DOH:

- **1446* 

Service-providing goods producing industries are defined by the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS)

*As of Saturday, Nov. 07
Grocery COVID-19 Outbreaks

• **There have been 76 grocery settings outbreaks reported to DOH**

• Grocery category is defined as
  - Establishments with NAICS codes for grocery stores, supermarkets, department stores, and warehouse super stores **AND**
  - Stayed open during the shut down on the premise of their ability to provide food & groceries to customers.

• Make up 5.2 % of the reported non-healthcare setting outbreak events and 2.8% of all reported outbreak events

COVID-19 Outbreaks in Grocery & Retail Settings*

- 305 linked cases to grocery outbreak events
  - Median = 3
  - Range: 2 - 29

*Data reflect outbreaks reported to DOH since the beginning of the pandemic.
Data may be incomplete
Limitations

• Limited outbreak reporting
  • Outbreaks may go unreported due to asymptomatic cases, lack of testing, etc.
• Customers are not typically considered in these outbreak investigations;
  • Investigations typically limited to staff
• Limited public health bandwidth to support data entry and case follow up
Key Findings

- Employees with direct customer exposure were more likely to test positive for SARS-CoV-2.
- The inability to practice social distancing consistently at work was a significant risk factor for anxiety and depression.
- Commuting to work by public transportation/shared rides was significantly associated with depressive state.
Additional Resources

DOH COVID-19 Workplace Safety Guidance

DOH COVID-19 Guidance for Food Workers & Food Establishments
https://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/1600/coronavirus/FoodWorkerEstablishment.pdf

DOH COVID-19 Guidelines for Grocery Stores

DOH Statewide COVID-19 Outbreak Report

Safe Start Washington Reopening Guide
Questions?