

UPDATED: 4 p.m., Sept. 11, 2020

ST. MICHAEL BREMERTON COVID-19 OUTBREAK UPDATE

The Kitsap Public Health District, with support from the Washington State Department of Health, is working closely with St. Michael Medical Center in Bremerton to contain a COVID-19 outbreak at the hospital. This report will be updated as new information becomes available.

COVID-19 case count as of 4:30 p.m., Sept. 10

Total confirmed cases: 73

(unchanged from previous report)

Staff: 46

(unchanged from previous report)

Patients: 24

(unchanged from previous report)

Other*: 3

(unchanged from previous report)

**Includes people who were at the hospital who are not staff or patients.*

Testing and case investigations are ongoing and reported case numbers are preliminary. Case counts include people who are not Kitsap County residents.

Key updates

- Kitsap Public Health released a [preliminary case characteristics report](#) with additional information about COVID-19 cases associated with the outbreak.
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“This outbreak is a reminder that when COVID-19 is spreading in our community, everyone is at heightened risk of getting sick, including those in health care settings. We ask that all community members continue to take steps to protect their health and slow the spread of the virus so we can prevent future outbreaks.”

Dr. Gib Morrow, Health Officer, Kitsap Public Health District

How Kitsap Public Health is responding

- Kitsap Public Health, in coordination with the state Department of Health, state Department Labor & Industries, and local partners, has activated a comprehensive, multi-agency response to identify the full extent of the outbreak and control its spread.
 - Kitsap Public Health has worked closely with St. Michael to investigate positive COVID-19 cases, notify people who may have been exposed to confirmed cases, and prevent additional illness.
 - In consultation with the state Department of Health, Kitsap Public Health has made recommendations to the hospital to prevent further exposures and illnesses. These include recommendations made to the hospital on [Aug. 21](#) and [Aug. 26](#).
 - Responding to a request from St. Michael Medical Center, the Kitsap County Emergency Operations Center Congregate Setting Outbreak Response Team, in coordination with Kitsap Public Health District, is working to provide baseline COVID-19 testing to as many as 2,500 of the medical center's Kitsap employees.
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Steps the public can take

- COVID-19 is spreading in Kitsap County. Community members can protect their health and help slow the spread of the virus by following prevention steps:
 - Always stay home if you feel sick, even if your illness is mild.
 - Get tested for COVID-19 as soon as possible if you have symptoms.
 - Keep at least 6 feet of distance from people outside of your household.
 - Keep gatherings small and avoid crowded places.
 - Wear a face covering when you are around other people.

- Wash hands frequently or use hand sanitizer.
 - For people who have recently been at St. Michael in Bremerton:
 - The hospital has been notifying patients who were discharged from units impacted by the outbreak.
 - If you are identified as a close contact of a confirmed case, Kitsap Public Health will contact you directly by phone.
 - Monitor your health. Contact your health care provider if you experience any illness or want to discuss COVID-19 testing. [Find more guidance.](#)
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Outbreak timeline

(Green items were added since the last update. The timeline was reversed to list most recent events first.)

AUG. 29

- An initial round of COVID-19 testing was completed for more than 2,300 St. Michael employees in Kitsap County, through a joint effort with the Kitsap County Emergency Operations Center. Additional testing is planned.

AUG. 28

- The Department of Health's Healthcare-Associated Infections Program produced a report following an Aug. 25 onsite assessment of St. Michael. The report contains a list of recommendations for the hospital.

AUG. 26

- Kitsap Public Health announced additional actions in response to the outbreak.
- Kitsap Public Health provided new recommendations to St. Michael.
- Kitsap Public Health established a webpage with outbreak updates, resources, and documents.

AUG. 25

- A Department of Health infection preventionist and the Kitsap Public Health District's health officer took part in a site visit at St. Michael.
- Responding to a request from St. Michael Medical Center, the Kitsap County Emergency Operations Center, in coordination with Kitsap Public Health, began providing baseline COVID-19 testing to St. Michael employees in Kitsap. Testing continues.

AUG. 24

- Representatives from Kitsap Public Health, St. Michael (CHI Franciscan) and the state Department of Health provided a briefing to news media.
- Representatives from Kitsap Public Health, the state Department of Health, and Labor & Industries took part in a teleconference with UFCW 21 members.

AUG. 21

- Kitsap Public Health conveyed recommendations to St. Michael that included ongoing testing, screening of staff, restrictions on visitation, and limited movement between units.
- Kitsap Public health, the state Department of Health and St. Michael consulted with the CDC for additional input.
- Kitsap Public Health and the Department of Health issued a news release.
- As of Aug. 21, Kitsap Public Health had identified 35 cases in four units at St. Michael, including 23 staff and 12 patients.

AUG. 20

- Based on increasing positive tests among staff and patients across multiple units, KPHD consulted with the Department of Health on additional recommendations for the hospital.

AUG. 18

- New positive tests indicated spread to an additional unit at the hospital.
- Kitsap Public Health recommended testing of patients and staff in the additional unit.

AUG. 14

- Kitsap Public Health declared an outbreak at St. Michael and registered the outbreak in the Washington Disease Reporting System (WDRS).
- Kitsap Public Health convened a meeting with St. Michael leadership. KPHD recommended testing for staff and patients in the impacted unit, enhanced screening for staff, and notification of discharged patients.

AUG. 13

- Based on case investigations of others who tested positive for COVID-19, Kitsap Public Health linked five COVID-19 cases to a unit at St. Michael.

- Kitsap Public Health recommended testing for staff and patients in the impacted unit.

AUG. 4

- Based on case investigation, Kitsap Public Health determined a positive COVID-19 case was an employee of St. Michael Medical Center in Bremerton.
- Kitsap Public Health conducted a case investigation and contact tracing. No close contacts from that case were identified at the hospital based on CDC criteria.

Additional resources

- [Kitsap Public Health St. Michael Outbreak Page](#)
- [St. Michael COVID-19 Community Update page](#)
- [Kitsap Public Health COVID-19 page](#)

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