

# Cowlitz County COVID-19 data

Updated 09/08/20

This report provides information that Cowlitz County residents can use to understand COVID-19 activity in our community. Cowlitz County Health & Human Services (CCHHS) will update these data weekly on Mondays, or the following business day if Monday is a holiday.

This one report provides data on several indicators of interest to the community. These indicators are calculated differently to best serve their intended use. A description of each indicator, and how it is calculated, is provided below

## *Epidemiologic curve*

This indicator can be used to understand COVID-19 activity in Cowlitz County. It is the average number of cases seen each day, over a week's time, based on the specimen collection date. The Washington State Department of Health (DOH) reports its epidemiological curve data by illness onset date. Because some of our cases do not have any symptoms, we use specimen collection date instead. We are not sure how DOH handles asymptomatic cases, though we will look into this and include in future reports. This graph only displays case counts and does not involve a denominator. Because of reporting lags, the last 6 days of data are considered incomplete and are therefore greyed out.

Data source: CCHHS case log, including cases reported to CCHHS as of 8:30am on the "Updated" date on the first page of this report.

## *School reopening*

This indicator can be used to understand how COVID-19 activity in Cowlitz County compares to the metrics outlined in the Washington State Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction's (OSPI) and DOH's Decision Tree for reopening schools. It is a population rate as opposed to a count. The numerator is the total number of cases over a two-week time period, based on the specimen collection date. The denominator is a population of 110,500, which is the April 1, 2020 Cowlitz County population estimate provided by the Washington State Office of Financial Management. Our last step is multiplying this figure by 100,000 to give us a rate per 100,000. Because of reporting lags, the last 6 days of data are considered incomplete and are therefore greyed out. The reported figure is for the two-week time period ending on the 6<sup>th</sup> day prior to this report date. DOH COVID-19 activity level groups are color-coded for reference.

Data sources: CCHHS case log, including cases reported to CCHHS as of 8:30am on the "Updated" date on the first page of this report. Population denominator obtained from Washington State Office of Financial Management population estimates for 2020, available online [here](#).

## *Cases by specimen collection date*

This table includes the number of cases by specimen collection date. These data are used to calculate the graphs in the Epidemiologic curve and School reopening sections. Note that daily and total counts will be different from the LHJ notification table.

Data source: CCHHS case log, including cases reported to CCHHS as of 8:30am on the "Updated" date on the first page of this report.

## *Cases by LHJ notification date*

Community members have expressed interest in knowing how many cases are reported to CCHHS each day. Accordingly, this table includes the number of cases by the day they were reported to CCHHS. Note that daily and total counts will be different from the Specimen collection table.

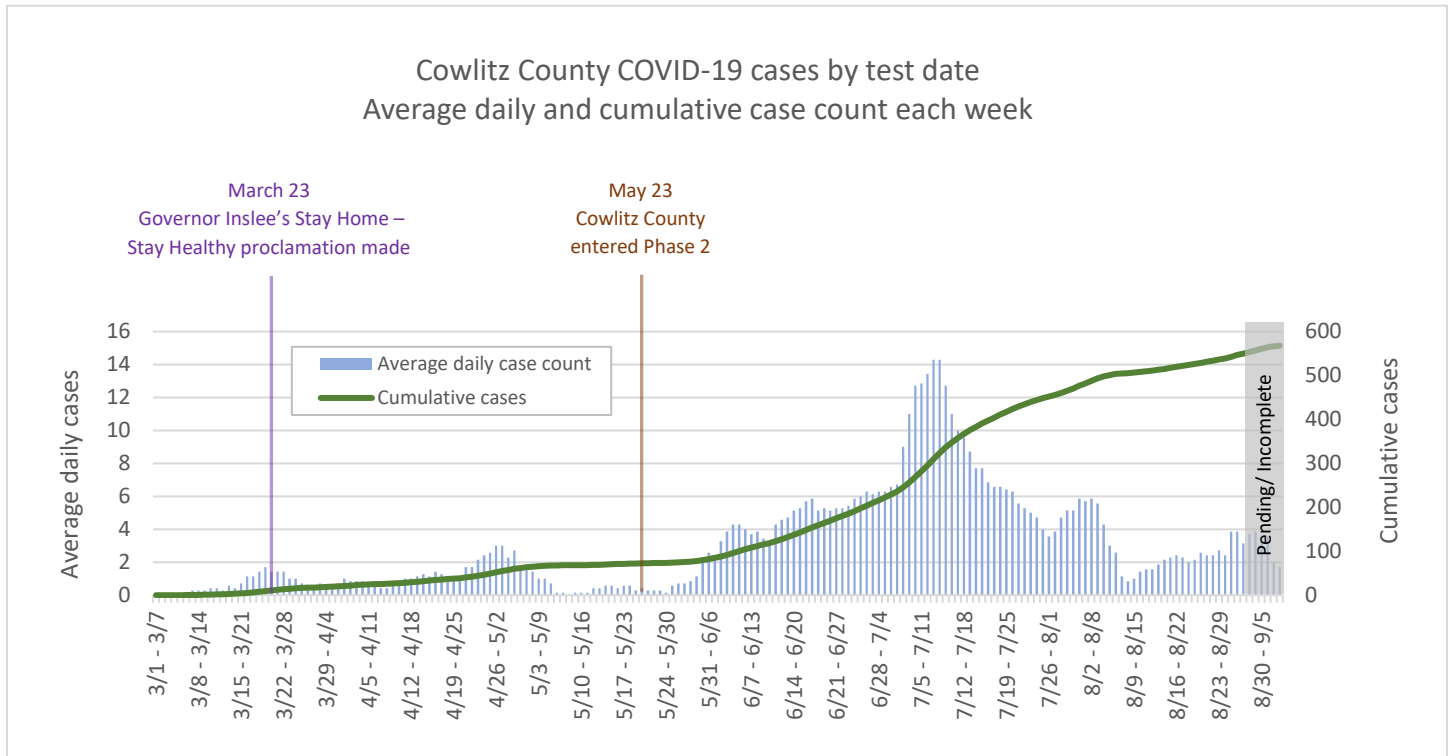
Data source: CCHHS case log, including cases reported to CCHHS as of 8:30am on the "Updated" date on the first page of this report.

Please contact [Askcowlitzhealth@co.cowlitz.wa.us](mailto:Askcowlitzhealth@co.cowlitz.wa.us) with any questions or comments.

# Epidemiologic curve

This graph can be used to see how COVID-19 is spreading in our community. COVID-19 activity remained low while the Stay Home – Stay Healthy proclamation was in place and began to increase after Cowlitz County entered Phase 2. We saw a spike in cases in early-mid July. After that, other than a bump in early August, our rate steadily decreased through early-mid August. Since then, our rate appears to be holding steady or may be increasing slowly. Future reports can more completely assess this trend.

Testing data were unavailable for several weeks while WA DOH updated some of its metrics. Now that these data are available again, future reports will assess how testing trends relate to trends in cases.



Note: Our interpretation of case trends is based on the current graph and related statistical analysis (not shown). Trend interpretation may change as we have more data into the future.

# School reopening

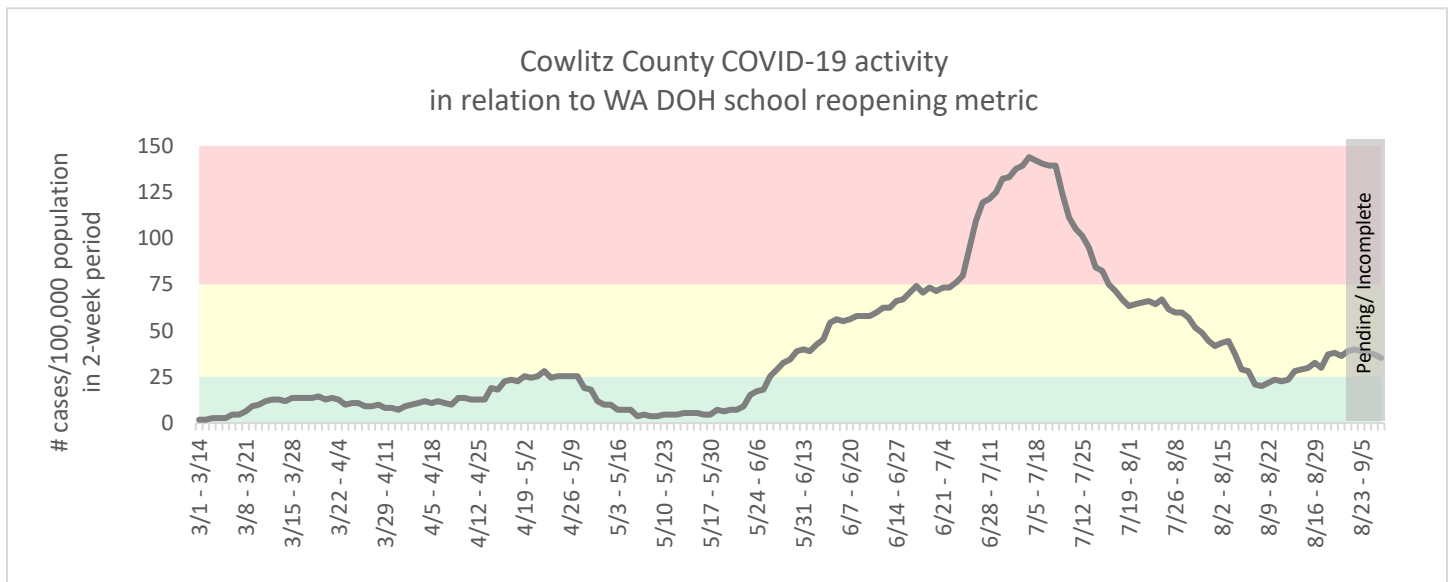
These data illustrate how COVID-19 activity in our community compares to the metrics identified by the Washington State Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction and the Department of Health for use in deciding when and how to reopen schools.

Cowlitz County is currently at a **MODERATE** level of COVID-19 activity, with 36 cases per 100,000 population in the past 14 days (8/20-9/2). The calculation is:

$$(40 \text{ total cases between } 8/20 \text{ and } 9/2) / (110,500 \text{ population}) * (100,000 \text{ multiplier}) = 36$$

School reopening plans will vary by district. The Washington State Department of Health (DOH) and the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) have developed guidance for local health officials and school superintendents around health and safety recommendations, available online [here](#). In addition, DOH has produced a Decision Tree to aid communities in reopening schools, available online [here](#). The last page includes an organized diagram outlining the factors and metrics to consider during this process.

The Decision Tree also recommends considering the percent positivity rate for tests. DOH recommends caution if this figure is above 5%. These data can be accessed via the DOH dashboard, available [here](#). Between 8/21-8/27, the most recent date range for which DOH reports this metric, **Cowlitz County's percent positivity rate was 2.9%**.



In general, CCHHS will consider recommending expanded in-person learning, beginning with the youngest students, after COVID-19 activity remains in the moderate range for at least three consecutive weeks. After each expansion, COVID-19 activity will again need to remain in the moderate range for at least three consecutive weeks before recommending additional groups of students for in-person learning.

Because of the large spike seen after the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, CCHHS is waiting until this report is released on Monday, 9/22 to assess the impact of the Labor Day holiday before making a recommendation about in-person learning.

**High COVID-19 activity:** DOH recommends distance learning with the option for limited in-person learning who need it most – such as children with disabilities. Sports and extracurricular activities should remain on pause.

**Moderate COVID-19 activity:** DOH recommends distance learning as described above, with gradual expansion of in-person education, beginning with elementary students. Younger students under the age of 10 benefit the most from in-person learning while also posing less risk for transmitting COVID-19 than older students. Most sports and extracurricular activities should remain on pause.

**Low COVID-19 activity:** DOH recommends full-time in-person learning for all elementary students and hybrid learning for middle and high school, eventually moving to in-person for middle and high school.

## Cases by specimen collection date

The table below displays the number of COVID-19 cases by specimen collection date. These data have been used to construct the Epidemiologic curve and School reopening graphs. The specimen for the first COVID-19 case was collected on 3/11/20.

	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1		1	1	1	7	0	2			
2		0	3	1	7	2	1			
3		1	0	1	4	11	5*			
4		1	2	2	6	10	3*			
5		0	4	7	3	4	2*			
6		2	0	3	11	10	1*			
7		2	1	1	9	3	0*			
8		0	0	8	23	1				
9		0	0	5	21	0				
10		1	0	4	16	2				
11	1	0	0	2	7	1				
12	0	0	0	5	7	1				
13	1	0	0	1	17	0				
14	0	2	0	2	9	1				
15	0	2	1	5	12	2				
16	1	1	0	4	9	3				
17	0	2	0	11	9	3				
18	0	0	2	4	4	1				
19	2	1	0	6	1	3				
20	0	1	1	4	10	2				
21	2	1	0	3	9	2				
22	3	4	0	8	6	3				
23	1	0	1	5	7	2				
24	2	0	0	6	9	1				
25	2	0	0	5	3	2				
26	0	0	1	5	0	6				
27	0	7	0	5	5	1				
28	2	1	0	3	7	2				
29	0	7	0	9	4	5				
30	1	2	0	8	5	0				
31	0		3		4	11				

\*Due to lags in reporting, data from the prior five days may be incomplete. Please note that incomplete data counts may be different between this table and the LHJ notification date table. In addition, this table excludes cases with missing data for specimen collection date.

## Cases by LHJ notification date

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Case count: 573 (2 cases currently missing a specimen collection date).

Community members have been interested in COVID-19 cases as they are reported to CCHHS. The table below displays the number of COVID-19 cases reported to CCHHS each day. Cowlitz County's first COVID-19 case was reported to CCHHS on 3/20/20.

	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
<b>1</b>		2	6	1	11	3	1			
<b>2</b>		0	5	2	6	7	4			
<b>3</b>		0	1	0	3	3	4			
<b>4</b>		1	1	1	3	6	10			
<b>5</b>		1	2	1	1	5	2			
<b>6</b>		1	1	6	14	7	2*			
<b>7</b>		0	2	5	4	7	4*			
<b>8</b>		1	3	3	9	6	0			
<b>9</b>		1	0	1	7	1				
<b>10</b>		1	0	6	26	8				
<b>11</b>		0	0	3	9	1				
<b>12</b>		1	0	4	7	2				
<b>13</b>		1	0	4	23	3				
<b>14</b>		0	0	2	5	0				
<b>15</b>		0	0	8	12	1				
<b>16</b>		2	0	1	11	1				
<b>17</b>		1	0	3	14	4				
<b>18</b>		0	1	8	5	2				
<b>19</b>		0	1	11	2	2				
<b>20</b>	2	4	1	1	11	3				
<b>21</b>	1	1	1	2	4	2				
<b>22</b>	0	0	0	7	8	0				
<b>23</b>	0	2	1	6	8	3				
<b>24</b>	0	3	0	5	11	3				
<b>25</b>	2	0	0	5	5	2				
<b>26</b>	4	0	0	5	4	2				
<b>27</b>	2	0	0	2	9	3				
<b>28</b>	3	0	0	1	7	4				
<b>29</b>	0	7	0	11	1	2				
<b>30</b>	1	1	0	6	8	2				
<b>31</b>	1		0		5	4				

\*Data from the current day and prior two days may be incomplete. Asterisked counts may be different between this table and the Specimen collection date table.