

Cowlitz County COVID-19 school data Updated 11/23/20

Note #1

We are in the process of updating how we provide COVID data to the community, including this report. Because the Department of Health's [Decision Tree](#) identifies school administrators as having the final decision in how to provide instruction to their students, we are no longer issuing a recommendation to schools. Instead, we are providing an assessment of the most current COVID data in our community to support their decision-making, as well as guidance on time frames, which the [Decision Tree](#) does not include.

Note #2

DOH experienced a significant backlog of test results last weekend. This has been resolved for positive test results, though negative test results are still backlogged. This affects our data for percent positivity and testing levels. Current figures should be interpreted with caution. More information can be found [here](#).

The Washington State Department of Health's [Decision Tree](#) provides guidance to communities when making decisions about in-person learning during the COVID-19 pandemic. It includes objective metrics and also provides room for schools to implement the guidelines in a way that best serves their students and communities. School administrators make the final decision in how to provide instruction to their students. This report provides an assessment of COVID-19 activity in our community to support administrators' decision-making. We have provided additional guidance on page 2 to supplement the [Decision Tree](#).

A longer, more in-depth *COVID-19 Data Report* is also published approximately every other week. The most recent version can be accessed [here](#).

We aim to be as transparent as possible and encourage community engagement with these reports. If you have a question, concern, or comment, please email us at Askcowlitzhealth@co.cowlitz.wa.us. We often update our reports, such as including additional information and descriptions, in response to the public's input.

- Cowlitz County is currently in the **HIGH** level of COVID-19 activity, at **250** new cases/100,000 population/14 days from 11/4 – 11/17.
- Between 10/28 – 11/10, the most recent complete two weeks of data available from the state, **12.6%** of Cowlitz County COVID-19 tests came back positive. This is **above** the level at which the state recommends caution for school reopening. **Note that this estimate should be interpreted with caution due to DOH's current backlog of tests (see Note #2 above).**
- As of today, **eleven Cowlitz County residents are hospitalized** with COVID-19.
- Cowlitz County was in the moderate level for four (4) weeks (9/19 – 10/2 through 10/16 – 10/29), and has now been at the high level for three weekly reports.
- **Caution warranted: New cases and hospitalizations are spiking**
Weekly counts show a rapid increase in new cases starting the third full week in October. This may have levelled off around the first or second week of November; future reports will allow us to more completely assess this trend. Hospitalizations have increased as well. Percent positivity is also up, but must be interpreted with caution because of DOH's testing backlog (see Note #2 above).
- **Be prepared: School reopening rate will likely increase after data collection is complete**
We are currently missing specimen collection data for 38 cases reported to us last week. Consistent with how DOH and other counties report data, these cases are not currently included in our school reopening figure. Once we have these dates, our school reopening figure for 10/28 – 11/10 will likely increase.

Time parameter consideration for school reopening

The [Decision Tree](#) includes objective metrics and also provides room for schools to implement the guidelines in a way that best serves their students and communities. Because the Decision Tree does not include a time parameter, we advise using three consecutive weekly reports at the same level of COVID-19 activity to make changes in students' learning modality. This three-week delay in changes helps us control disease transmission while preventing schools from switching rapidly between in-person and remote learning, which would be challenging for schools, children, and their families to manage.

- At a sustained high level, which we define as three consecutive weekly reports, the [Decision Tree](#) recommends remote learning for students, with exceptions for small groups of highest need students, such as students with disabilities, students living homeless, those farthest from educational justice, and younger learners.
- At sustained moderate or low levels, which we define as three consecutive weekly reports, the [Decision Tree](#) supports expanding in-person learning to additional groups of students, starting with elementary students.
- At levels which fluctuate between high and moderate, students' learning modality can be maintained. In-person students remain in-person while remote students remain remote.

School reopening data time trend

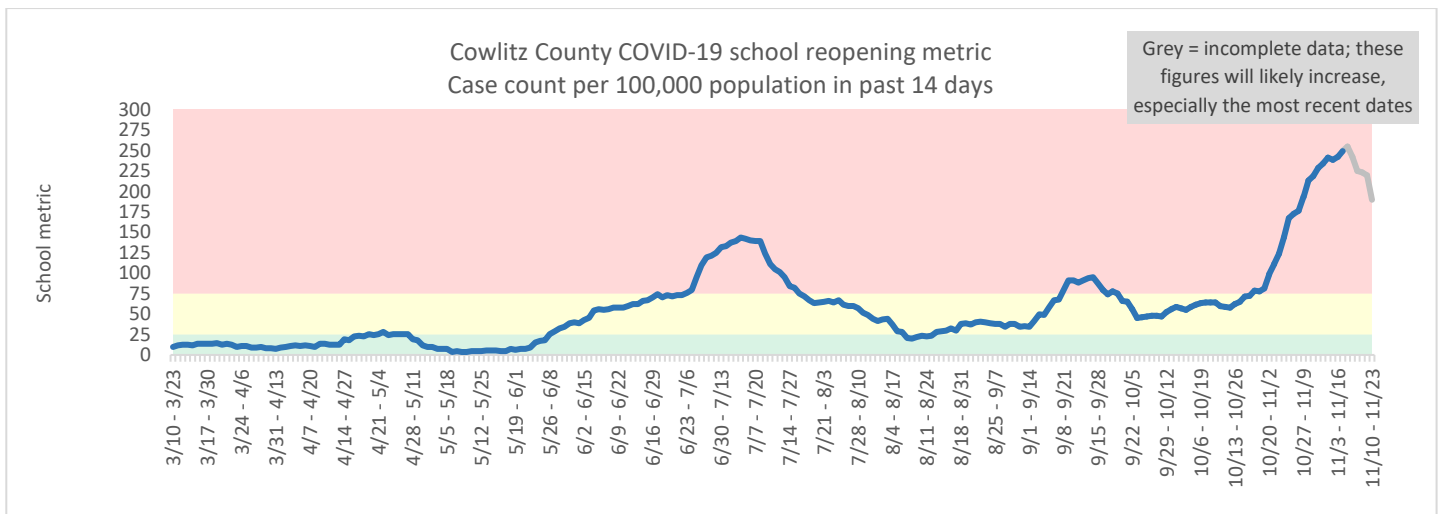
These data illustrate how COVID-19 activity in our community compares to the metrics identified in the Washington State Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction and the Department of Health’s [Decision Tree](#) for use in deciding when and how to reopen schools.

Note: This chart uses the date when a case’s specimen was collected, not the date when we included the case in our Daily Data Summary. More information on how we analyze and report our data can be found on page 4 of [this report](#).

The calculation for Cowlitz County’s most recent rate is:

$$(276 \text{ total cases from specimens collected between 11/4 and 11/17}) / (110,500 \text{ population}) * (100,000 \text{ multiplier}) =$$

250 new cases/100,000 population/2 weeks



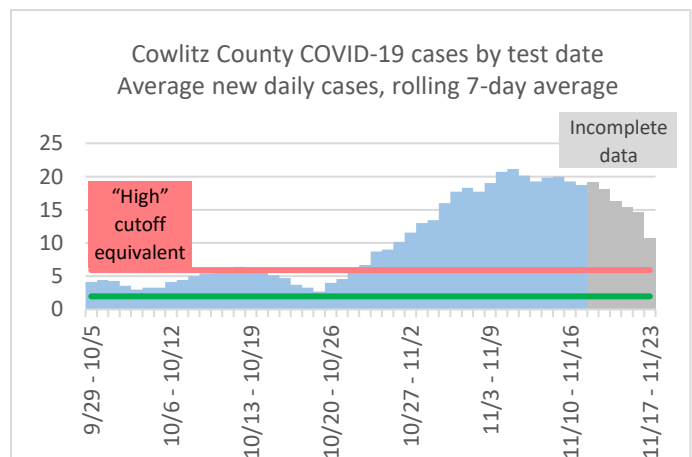
Note on incomplete data

Data in this graph are based on the date when the test was performed and include all cases reported to CCHS by 8:30am on the date of this report. Cases are typically reported to CCHHS one or more days after the date of the test; the vast majority of positive test results are reported to CCHHS within six days of the test date. To account for this lag in reporting, the date range ending in the sixth day before the date of this report is considered the most recent complete figure. More recent data points are considered incomplete and are color-coded grey. Figures in grey will likely increase in future reports once all tests performed on these dates have been reported to CCHHS.

Weekly data for more up-to-date counts

The school metric is based on a two-week rolling rate; looking at case data for rolling one-week time periods can give us a more precise glimpse into how cases are trending. In addition to providing data related to the school reopening metric, we’ll also provide this graph for the most recent 8 weeks. The red line identifies the level above which the weekly rate corresponds to the “high” level for the school metric.

A summary interpretation of these data is available on the first page of this report.



Cases by specimen collection, case report, and Daily Data Summary dates

The table below displays the number of COVID-19 cases by the date a case's first positive specimen was collected, the date the case was reported to CCHHS, and, since September 1, the number of cases reported each day in our Daily Data Summary. A description of how these three dates relate to each other can be found on page 4 of our [10/14/20 Cowlitz County COVID-19 Data report](#).

The specimen collection data have been used to construct most of the graphs in our reports. The specimen for the first COVID-19 case in Cowlitz County was collected on 3/11/20. Cowlitz County's first COVID-19 case was reported to CCHHS on 3/20/20.

We do not typically use the date when a case is reported to us, or the date when we include a case in our Daily Data Summary, in data analysis for our COVID-19 data or School Data reports. However, we are providing this information because community members are interested in COVID-19 cases as they are reported to CCHHS and as we report them to the community.

	March			April			May			June			July			August			Sept.			Oct.			Nov.			Dec.		
	Specimen collection	Report date	Daily Data Update	Specimen collection	Report date	Daily Data Update	Specimen collection	Report date	Daily Data Update	Specimen collection	Report date	Daily Data Update	Specimen collection	Report date	Daily Data Update	Specimen collection	Report date	Daily Data Update	Specimen collection	Report date	Daily Data Update	Specimen collection	Report date	Daily Data Update	Specimen collection	Report date	Daily Data Update	Specimen collection	Report date	Daily Data Update
1				1	2		1	6		1	1		7	11		0	3		2	1	2	8	3	4	8	7	-			
2				0	0		3	5		1	2		7	6		2	7		1	4	3	10	6	2	24	15	20			
3				1	0		0	1		1	0		4	3		11	3		5	4	3	2	4	-	18	8	16			
4				1	1		2	1		2	1		6	3		10	6		3	10	4	1	5	-	17	15	8			
5				0	1		4	2		7	1		3	1		4	5		2	2	-	3	6	14	25	17	17			
6				2	1		0	1		3	6		11	14		10	7		1	2	-	3	3	6	27	9	16			
7				2	0		1	2		1	5		9	4		3	7		0	4	-	3	2	3	9	16	-			
8				0	1		0	3		8	3		23	9		1	6		2	0	16	3	1	3	4	22	-			
9				0	1		0	0		5	1		21	7		0	1		2	0	0	6	2	0	33	24	48			
10				1	1		0	0		4	6		16	26		2	8		5	3	2	4	3	-	30	20	24			
11	1			0	0		0	0		2	3		7	9		1	1		2	4	2	1	4	-	20	21	-			
12	0			0	1		0	0		5	4		7	7		1	2		1	1	-	9	5	14	18	15	37			
13	1			0	1		0	0		1	4		17	23		0	3		1	2	-	5	7	3	21	27	17			
14	0			2	0		0	0		2	2		9	5		1	0		11	2	6	7	5	2	13	13	-			
15	0			2	0		1	0		5	8		12	12		2	1		10	4	1	6	7	5	5	18	-			
16	1			1	2		0	0		4	1		9	11		3	1		10	12	5	8	7	7	28	37	59			
17	0			2	1		0	0		11	3		9	14		3	4		4	5	12	6	5	-	26	25	34			
18	0			0	0		2	1		4	8		4	5		1	2		13	8	5	4	4	-	23*	16	29			
19	2			1	0		0	1		6	11		1	2		3	2		12	3	-	5	10	16	11*	36	28			
20	0	2		1	4		1	1		4	1		10	11		2	3		2	17	-	4	6	10	8*	25	23			
21	2	1		1	1		0	1		3	2		9	4		2	2		13	9	28	3	4	6	7*	15*	-			
22	3	0		4	0		0	0		8	7		6	8		3	0		15	5	14	3	4	3	0*	46*	-			
23	1	0		0	2		1	1		5	6		7	8		2	3		2	9	4	1	5	6			0*	86		
24	2	0		0	3		0	0		6	5		9	11		1	3		2	7	5	3	3	-						
25	2	2		0	0		0	0		5	5		3	5		2	2		5	2	7	0	0	-						
26	0	4		0	0		1	0		5	5		0	4		6	2		4	1	-	14	0	8						
27	0	2		7	0		0	0		5	2		5	9		1	3		2	4	-	8	8	6						
28	2	3		1	0		0	0		3	1		7	7		2	4		3	4	7	14	10	1						
29	0	0		7	7		0	0		9	11		4	1		5	2		1	14	19	7	4	10						
30	1	1		2	1		0	0		8	6		5	8		0	2		4	2	0	15	13	9						
31	0	1					3	0					4	5		12	4					5	6	-						

*Due to lags in reporting, data from the prior five days may be incomplete for the specimen collection date, and the current day is not reported. Data from the current day and prior two days may be incomplete for the case report date. Cases missing a specimen collection date=46. Cases missing a report date=0.

Indicator definitions

Percent positivity rate

This indicator is the number of positive test results received, divided by the total number of tests performed, each week. It is based on the specimen collection date. Note that these data include multiple negative test results for one individual, other than those performed on the same day, while all positive test results after an individual's first positive result are excluded.

Data source: Test data obtained from the WA DOH [COVID-19 risk assessment dashboard](#), under "Testing Capacity". Data are typically accessed on the date of this report. Population denominator obtained from Washington State Office of Financial Management [Population Estimates for 2020](#).

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 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. The reported figure is for the two-week time period ending on the 6th 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](#).