

# Cowlitz County COVID-19 school data Updated 01/25/21

**1/25 UPDATES** - This week's percent positivity covers 12/23 – 1/5, the most recent two-week period for which complete data are available from the Washington State Department of Health (WA DOH). We are currently investigating the completeness of testing data from WA DOH for December and January. Once we are certain that those data are accurate, we can more definitely assess how COVID-19 is spreading in our community as well as how the [drive-thru clinic](#) at the Fairgrounds has impacted our case and testing numbers. Our WA DOH case reporting backlog, which had caused a potential under-reporting of Cowlitz County residents hospitalized for COVID-19, has been resolved. Due to reporting lags, complete data for this indicator will be reported in next week's school report.

The Washington State Department of Health's [Tools to Prepare for Provision of In-Person Learning](#) 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 and related indicators in our community to support administrators' decision-making. In addition, Cowlitz County Health & Human Services' (CCHHS) leadership meets weekly with school district administrators to discuss COVID-19 activity as it relates to school reopening.

Do you have a question or comment? Please email us at [Askcowlitzhealth@co.cowlitz.wa.us](mailto:Askcowlitzhealth@co.cowlitz.wa.us).

## **COVID-19 in Cowlitz County**

### ***Case counts currently exceed pre-holiday levels; per-capita deaths are higher than Washington State***

The school metric and weekly case counts are both currently higher than figures from the weeks before Thanksgiving and Christmas. We saw an average of 39 new cases per day from specimens collected Jan. 13-19. The school report on Feb 1 will give us a first glimpse into whether case counts will continue to rise after the Christmas and New Year's holidays or if the increase is a temporary post-holiday "bump" that will decrease.

COVID-19 hospital admissions may have leveled off since early November\*. Regional ICU occupancy is **BELOW THRESHOLD**.

Cowlitz County's COVID-19 deaths are increasing. Our per-capita deaths are now higher than Washington State.

### ***For whom should our community provide in person learning?***

We are currently at a **HIGH** level of COVID-19 activity, and have been at this level for nine (9) weekly Monday reports. At this level, the Department of Health recommends phasing in in-person learning in groups of 15 or fewer students for pre-K through grade 5 and for those with highest needs. More information can be found on page 8 of DOH's [Tools](#) document. Specific indicators related to this question are provided on the next page.

### ***Is there adequate access to testing in the community health system for ill students and staff?***

**YES** Students and staff can access COVID-19 testing through their healthcare provider or the [free drive-thru COVID-10 testing clinic](#) at the Cowlitz County Fairgrounds.

### ***Is there adequate capacity in our local health department to investigate confirmed COVID-19 cases, quarantine their close contacts, and assess whether transmission is occurring in the school?***

**YES** CCHHS supports schools in case of an outbreak, including case and outbreak investigation and contact tracing.

### ***Can local public health monitor the level of community spread to determine when a change in education modality is needed?***

**YES** We publish this report weekly to provide relevant data to school districts and the community

\*Recent hospitalization data may be underreported for Cowlitz County because high case counts have resulted in reporting backlogs. This backlog has been resolved. Due to reporting lags, complete data for this indicator will be reported in next week's school report.

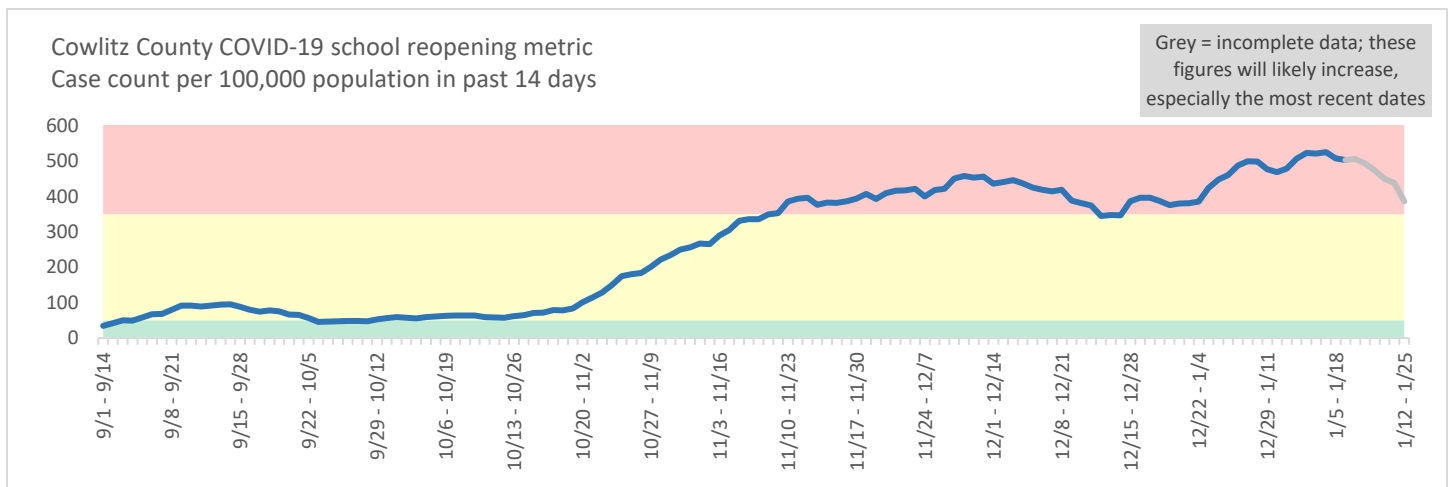
## For whom should our community provide in person learning?

Indicator	Most recent time frame with complete data	Current status	Trend over time
Cases in Cowlitz County	1/6 - 1/19	<b>503</b> cases per 100,000 population in past 14 days	Sharp increase since late October, steady from Thanksgiving to Christmas, current case rate is higher than pre-holiday levels
Percent of Cowlitz County tests that are positive <small>(see updates on first page for more details)</small>	12/23 – 1/5	<b>18.8%</b>	Sharp increase from late October to mid-November, current figure may be higher than mid-November, recent time trend is uncertain
Cowlitz County residents admitted to the hospital with COVID-19*	12/13 – 12/26	24 COVID-19 hospital admissions	Sharp increase since late October, may have leveled off since early November
ICU occupancy in Southwest Washington**	1/10 – 1/16	<b>BELOW THRESHOLD</b> 54% of ICU beds occupied	Decrease from last week

\*This includes all Cowlitz residents hospitalized with COVID-19, regardless of what county they are hospitalized in. Hospitalizations are generally excluded if they are for a reason other than COVID-19. This figure may be an undercount due to reporting backlogs. This backlog has been resolved – due to reporting lags, the corrected data will be reported to school districts in the 1/28 school report and publicly in the 2/1 school report.

\*\*This indicator is now pulled from the latest DOH Roadmap to Recovery Reports, released each Friday and available [here](#). Southwest Washington includes Clark, Cowlitz, Klickitat, Skamania, and Wahkiakum counties.

### School reopening time trend



## 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 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. Daily counts prior to September 2020 are no longer provided but can be accessed in our [Dec 28<sup>th</sup> School Data Report](#).

**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.

	Sept 2020			Oct 2020			Nov 2020			Dec 2020			Jan 2021			Feb 2021		
	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	2	1	2	8	3	4	9	7	-	51	26	31	11	2	-			
2	1	4	3	10	6	2	24	15	20	32	53	25	23	52	-			
3	5	4	3	2	4	-	19	8	16	49	37	56	9	40	-			
4	3	10	4	1	5	-	19	15	8	37	38	37	55	35	147			
5	2	2	-	3	6	14	26	17	17	25	19	-	69	22	35			
6	1	2	-	3	3	6	29	9	16	13	25	-	53	29	19			
7	0	4	-	3	2	3	9	16	-	45	78	79	41	46	31			
8	2	0	16	3	1	3	4	22	-	60	32	78	35	49	46			
9	2	0	0	6	2	0	33	24	48	35	33	40	27	63	-			
10	5	3	2	4	3	-	31	20	24	34	32	32	13	37	-			
11	2	4	2	1	4	-	28	21	-	38	57	32	57	39	143			
12	1	1	-	9	5	14	24	15	37	11	23	-	58	38	38			
13	1	2	-	5	7	3	23	27	17	15	17	-	49	35	36			
14	11	2	6	7	5	2	17	13	-	37	39	97	60	32	36			
15	10	4	1	6	7	5	7	18	-	56	27	40	29	57	23			
16	10	12	5	8	7	7	51	37	59	38	33	27	21	55	-			
17	4	5	12	6	5	-	36	25	34	39	26	34	14	13	-			
18	13	8	5	3	4	-	48	16	29	24	68	30	35	47	-			
19	12	3	-	5	9	16	31	35	28	18	13	-	64	32	173			
20	2	17	-	4	6	10	29	24	23	8	21	-	57*	22	32			
21	13	9	28	3	4	6	24	15	-	50	35	103	26*	67	18			
22	15	5	14	3	4	3	8	46	-	26	27	35	13*	48	67			
23	2	9	4	1	5	6	69	51	86	27	46	27	1*	48*	-			
24	2	7	5	3	3	-	40	35	50	27	36	46	0*	10*	-			
25	5	2	7	0	0	-	31	62	36	5	27	-		0*	104			
26	4	1	-	14	0	8	2	40	-	14	22	-						
27	2	4	-	8	8	6	30	12	-	14	5	-						
28	3	4	7	14	10	1	16	25	-	81	15	92						
29	1	14	19	7	4	10	12	21	-	67	38	15						
30	4	2	0	16	13	9	59	31	165	38	45	42						
31				5	6	-				29	53	45						

\*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=8. Cases missing a report date=0.

## Indicator definitions

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### *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 6<sup>th</sup> day prior to this report date. DOH COVID-19 activity level groups are color-coded for reference.

The calculation is:

$$\frac{\text{Number of cases from specimens collected during most recent complete two-week time period}}{110,500 \text{ population}} \times 100,000 = \text{Current school metric}$$

More information on how we analyze and report our data can be found on page 4 of [this report](#).

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](#).