

3/29 UPDATES

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) updated their [Operational Strategy for K-12 Schools through Phased Prevention](#) guidance on March 19. This document's [Indicators of Community Transmission](#) section defines community transmission levels based on case incidence and test positivity as well as prevention strategies for each level of transmission.
- The Washington State Department of Health's (state DOH's) [K-12 Schools 2020-2021 Guidance](#) was updated on March 25. This document now provides guidance only for how to resume in-person instruction. It no longer recommends metrics for use in deciding when to offer in-person learning for any K-12 grade level. The updates have been informed by the CDC's updated recommendations.
- We've updated our hospitalization figure to a rate as opposed to a count, to align with the [Roadmap to Recovery metrics](#) for larger counties.

This report provides COVID-19 data for Cowlitz County related to K-12 school operations and the Governor's [Healthy Washington – Roadmap to Recovery plan](#).

Do you have a question or comment? Please email us at Askcowlitzhealth@co.cowlitz.wa.us.

Current COVID-19 status in Cowlitz County

Will be included again in next week's report.

For school operations

We are currently at a "High" level of COVID-19 community transmission.

- Our case incidence rate currently aligns with "Substantial" levels of transmission and is decreasing gradually or holding steady.
- Our percent positivity currently aligns with "High" levels of transmission and is most likely decreasing.

For Roadmap to Recovery phase determination

The first evaluation of these metrics will occur on Monday, April 12, with any changes implemented on Friday, April 16. We provide these data so the community can see trends in metrics related to reopening between official state DOH evaluations.

If we were evaluated for phase progression today, we would revert to Phase 2.

- Our case incidence rate currently aligns with Phase 3 and is decreasing gradually or holding steady.
- Our current hospitalization rate aligns with Phase 2 and is gradually decreasing.

Cowlitz County COVID-19 indicators

Case incidence and percent positivity are used to inform the state DOH’s [K-12 Schools 2020-2021 Guidance](#), while case incidence and hospital admissions are used in the Governor’s [Healthy Washington – Roadmap to Recovery plan](#).

These data are accessed Monday morning of each week. More current data may be available online.

| | Most recent time frame with complete data | Current status | Recent trend over time | Where to find the most current data for this indicator on the Roadmap to Recovery Metrics webpage |
|---|---|---|--|--|
| Case incidence* | 3/3– 3/16 | 140 cases per 100,000 population in past 14 days | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharp decrease through Feb. • Currently decreasing more gradually or has leveled off • New case counts have decreased by about two-thirds from their peak in January | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Scroll down to “COVID-19 Risk Assessment Dashboard” 2. Click on the “COVID-19 Disease Activity” tab 3. Select “Cowlitz County” from the dropdown “Select a County” menu 4. The default view is a 14-day rate. |
| Percent of tests that are positive | 3/2 – 3/8 | 10.9% | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has most likely been decreasing since the beginning of February | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Scroll down to “COVID-19 Risk Assessment Dashboard” 2. Click on the “Testing Capacity” tab 3. Select the “Percent of positive molecular tests” key metric 4. Select “Cowlitz County” from the dropdown “Select a County” menu |
| Cowlitz County residents admitted to the hospital for COVID-19 during the past week** | 3/1 – 3/7 | 6.4 hospital admissions per 100,000 population in the past 7 days | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gradual decrease that began in late November. • Hospital admissions have decreased by about half from their peak in late November. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Scroll down to “COVID-19 Risk Assessment Dashboard” 2. Click on the “COVID-19 Disease Activity” tab 3. Under “Select a key metric”, click on “New hospitalizations per 100K people” 4. Select “Cowlitz County” from the dropdown “Select a County” menu. |

*The CDC case incidence figure is expressed in a 7-day time frame while the state DOH uses a 14-day time frame. Divide this figure by 2 to convert to the CDC figure.

**This includes all Cowlitz residents hospitalized with COVID-19 in Washington State, regardless of what county they are hospitalized in. Hospitalizations are generally excluded if they are for a reason other than COVID-19.

Note

We have transitioned to using state DOH figures in this report. More details are available in the [3/15/21 Cowlitz County COVID-19 school data report](#).