

4/5 UPDATES

- No updates today.

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](#).

School operations are informed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC's) [Operational Strategy for K-12 Schools through Phased Prevention](#) guidance and the Washington State Department of Health's (state DOH's) [K-12 Schools 2020-2021 Guidance](#).

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

Current COVID-19 status in Cowlitz County

Cases increasing; hospitalizations and deaths holding steady

We saw an average of 17 new confirmed and probable cases per day from specimens collected March 17 – 23. Case counts have begun to sharply increase since mid-March. Cowlitz County's new per capita case rate continues to trend above the state average.

New COVID-19 hospital admissions among Cowlitz residents had been decreasing but have now leveled off or may even be spiking again. We are on par or trending just above the per capita state average.

Because counts are so small, trends in new COVID-19 deaths among Cowlitz residents have been erratic. Overall, since November, this trend has been somewhat steady and holding above the state per capita average.

For school operations

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

- Our case incidence rate currently aligns with "Substantial" levels of transmission and is increasing.
- Our percent positivity currently aligns with "Moderate" levels of transmission and may have leveled off.

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. Counties need to meet the requirements for both the case and hospitalization metrics to remain in their current phase.

We do not have the exact methods that the state DOH will use to calculate metrics for phase determination. However, based on our best estimates:

If current trends continue and the Roadmap to Recovery plan follows these [metrics](#), we will revert to Phase 2 next week.

- Our case incidence rate will most likely **not meet** the requirements to remain in Phase 3 next week.
- Our hospitalization rate will most likely **meet** the requirements to remain in Phase 3 next week.

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*	3/10– 3/23	152 cases per 100,000 population in past 14 days	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharp decrease through Feb. • Leveled off in early March • Sharp increase in weekly counts beginning in mid-March. 	<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	3/9 – 3/15	6.7%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has most likely been decreasing since the beginning of February • May have leveled off 	<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**	3/8 – 3/14	3.7 hospital admissions per 100,000 population in the past 7 days	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lower than the peak in late November. • Now leveled off or spiking again. 	<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](#).