

4/13 UPDATES

- To better align with data reporting schedules from the state DOH, this report will now be published on Tuesdays.

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, most concentrated in adults aged 30-34 and 35-49 years old; hospitalizations leveled off or increasing again; deaths continue to hold steady

We saw an average of 31 new confirmed and probable cases per day from specimens collected March 28 – April 3. Case counts have increased sharply since mid-March; the spike is most pronounced in adults aged 20-34 and 35-49 years old. Rates have also increased in adults aged 50-64 years and youth under age 20. Adults aged 65 and older have experienced a much smaller increase in cases and currently have the lowest case incidence rate of any age group. Cowlitz County's new per capita case rate continues to trend above the state average.

There has been interest in the community around the recent apparent spike in hospitalizations in Cowlitz County on the state DOH's [COVID-19 Risk Assessment Dashboard](#). It is important to note that those data are weekly totals that produce small numbers and erratic rates. We can make more useful conclusions about trends when we look at rates for longer time frames, such as two- or four-week averages. Based on those longer time frames, new COVID-19 hospital admissions among Cowlitz residents had been decreasing since late November but may have recently leveled off or even be increasing again. Underlying demographic trends will be included in future reports when we have enough data to draw meaningful conclusions. Overall, Cowlitz County's new hospital admission rate continues to trend 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. Underlying demographic trends will be included in future reports when we have enough data to draw meaningful conclusions.

For school operations

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

- Our case incidence rate currently aligns with "High" levels of transmission and is increasing.
- Our percent positivity currently aligns with "High" levels of transmission and is most likely increasing.

For Roadmap to Recovery phase determination

Cowlitz County will revert back to Phase 2 this Friday, April 16, based on the Roadmap to Recovery plan's [metrics](#).

- Our case incidence rate will **does not meet** the requirements to remain in Phase 3.
- Our hospitalization rate **does not meet** the requirements to remain in Phase 3.

The next evaluation of these metrics will occur on Monday, May 3, with any changes implemented on Friday, May 7.

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, hospital admissions, and statewide ICU capacity are used in the Governor's [Healthy Washington – Roadmap to Recovery plan](#).

These data are generally accessed Tuesday 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
Two-week case incidence*	3/21– 4/03	339 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 beginning in mid-March 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Visit the state DOH's Roadmap to Recovery Metrics webpage. 2. Scroll down to "COVID-19 Risk Assessment Dashboard" 3. Click on the "COVID-19 Disease Activity" tab 4. Select "Cowlitz County" from the dropdown "Select a County" menu 5. The default view is a 14-day rate.
Percent of tests that are positive	3/19 – 3/25	11.3%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Had most likely been decreasing since the beginning of February • Most likely increasing since mid-March 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Visit the state DOH's Roadmap to Recovery Metrics webpage. 2. Scroll down to "COVID-19 Risk Assessment Dashboard" 3. Click on the "Testing Capacity" tab 4. Select the "Percent of positive molecular tests" key metric 5. Select "Cowlitz County" from the dropdown "Select a County" menu
Cowlitz County residents admitted to the hospital for COVID-19 during the past week**	3/25 – 3/31	9.0 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. Visit the state DOH's Roadmap to Recovery Metrics webpage. 2. Scroll down to "COVID-19 Risk Assessment Dashboard" 3. Click on the "COVID-19 Disease Activity" tab 4. Under "Select a key metric", click on "New hospitalizations per 100K people" 5. Select "Cowlitz County" from the dropdown "Select a County" menu.
Statewide ICU capacity	3/30 – 4/5	78%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently lower than in January 2021 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Visit the state DOH's COVID-19 Data Dashboard. 2. Click on the "Healthcare Readiness" tab. 3. Click on "WA HEALTH ICU Occupancy"

*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](#).