

4/20 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 have increased since mid-March and may have leveled off; spike concentrated in adults 20-49 and residents of Longview, Kelso, and Castle Rock; new hospitalizations increasing again; new deaths appear to have declined

We saw an average of 26 new confirmed and probable cases per day from specimens collected April 4-10.* Weekly case counts have increased sharply since mid-March; this may have leveled off recently. The spike is most pronounced in adults aged 20-49 years old, as well as residents of Longview, Kelso, and Castle Rock. Weekly case counts have approximately tripled in these groups. Weekly case counts have increased to a lesser extent in adults aged 50-64 years, youth under age 20, and residents of eastern rural areas of the county.† Adults aged 65 and older have experienced the smallest increase in cases and currently have the lowest per capita new case rate of any age group. 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 since late November but began to increase again in mid-March‡. 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 challenging to assess. Overall, new deaths appear to have decreased since the end of January and have continued to trend 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; this is increasing or may have recently leveled off.
- Our percent positivity currently aligns with "High" levels of transmission and is most likely increasing.

For Roadmap to Recovery phase determination

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

- Our case incidence rate currently **does not meet** the requirements to remain in Phase 2.
- Our hospitalization rate currently **meets** the requirements to remain in Phase 2.

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

*Available on the state DOH's [Data Dashboard](#) on the "Epidemiologic Curves" tab under "Cases" and "Cowlitz County".

‡Death counts available on the state DOH's [Data Dashboard](#) on the "Epidemiologic Curves" tab under "Deaths" and "Cowlitz County". Per capita death rates are not available on the state DOH dashboards.

†Eastern Rural Cowlitz County includes Ariel, Cougar, Silver Lake, and Toutle.

§The state DOH's [COVID-19 Risk Assessment Dashboard](#) displays hospitalization data for Cowlitz County residents. It is important to note that these data are weekly totals that produce small numbers and erratic rates for our county. We can make more meaningful conclusions about time trends when we look at rates for longer time frames, such as two- or four-week averages. Hospitalization trends in this report are based on these longer time frames.

Note: Demographic data are analyzed internally and not available on the state DOH data dashboards.

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 occupancy 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*	3/28– 4/10	367 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	3/26 – 4/1	13.7%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Had most likely been decreasing since the beginning of February • Spiking again, starting 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**	4/1 – 4/7	4.5 hospital admissions per 100,000 population in the past 7 days	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decreased from late November through early or mid-March. • Increasing again 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 "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 occupancy	4/6 – 4/12	77%	<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 System 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](#).