

4/27 UPDATES

- Please see the new paragraph below about school reopening in Cowlitz County.

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](#).

The CDC and state DOH provide recommendations school administrators can use when making decisions about how and when to offer in-person learning. These are recommendations, not requirements. We support the recommendations put forth by the CDC and state DOH, and recognize that each district is making decisions that balance the needs of students and faculty with protecting their overall health and safety. School administrators are ultimately responsible for making decisions about education settings and modes. We will continue to be a reliable source for COVID-19 information and data that schools can rely on to make informed decisions about operations.

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; new hospitalizations increasing again; new deaths appear to have declined

We saw an average of 28 new confirmed and probable cases per day from specimens collected April 11-17. Weekly case counts increased sharply from mid- to late March and appears to have leveled off. 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. 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 returned to the state per capita average.

Underlying demographics for cases, hospitalizations, and deaths are included in today's Board of Health presentation; slides will be available online later this week.

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 has recently leveled off.
- Our percent positivity currently aligns with "High" levels of transmission and is most likely increasing.

For Roadmap to Recovery phase determination

The next evaluation of the Roadmap to Recovery plan's [metrics](#) will occur on Monday, May 3, with any changes implemented on Friday, May 7.

Based on our best estimates:

- our case incidence rate **may or may not meet** the requirements to remain in Phase 2, and
- our hospitalization rate **may or may not meet** the requirements to remain in Phase 2.

We will be able to stay in Phase 2 next week if we meet the requirement for at least one of the two Roadmap to Recovery metrics.

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*	4/5– 4/18	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 • Leveled off in late 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	4/2 – 4/8	13.6%	<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**	4/9– 4/15	10.9 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	80%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Returning to January 2021 levels but still below threshold 	<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](#).