

5/11 UPDATES

- Starting today, we will publish this report every other Tuesday as opposed to every week.

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 been decreasing since early April; new hospitalizations may have leveled off; new deaths appear to have declined

We saw an average of 20 new confirmed and probable cases per day from specimens collected April 26 - May 2.* Weekly case counts have been decreasing since early April. New case counts are falling in most areas of the county except for Woodland, which has been increasing since early April. Adults aged 65 and older continue to have the lowest per capita new case rate of any age group. Cowlitz County's weekly new per capita case rate has decreased and is now on par with the state average.

New COVID-19 hospital admissions among Cowlitz residents began to increase in mid-March and may have leveled off since mid-April.& The per-capita new hospitalization rate for Cowlitz County 50-64-year-olds now exceeds the rate for residents aged 65 and older. Overall, Cowlitz County's two-week new per capita hospital admission rate is currently double the 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 are currently on par with the state per capita average.@

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 decreasing.
- Our percent positivity currently aligns with "High" levels of transmission and may have leveled off recently.

For Roadmap to Recovery phase determination

The next evaluation of these metrics will occur on Tuesday, May 18, with any changes implemented on Friday, May 21.

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

- Our case incidence rate will most likely align with **Phase 2**.
- Our hospitalization rate will most likely align with **Phase 1 or 2**.

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

&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.

@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.

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](#).

	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*	4/19– 5/2	274 cases per 100,000 population in past 14 days	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharp increase from mid-March to early April • Decrease since early April 	<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	4/16 – 4/22	12.5%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharp increase beginning in mid-March • May have leveled off since early April 	<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**	4/23– 4/29	10.9 hospital admissions per 100,000 population in the past 7 days	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharp increase beginning in mid-March. • May have leveled off since mid-April 	<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	4/28 – 5/4	81%	<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](#).