

8/11 UPDATES –

- Note that testing data now include both antigen and molecular tests. Antigen test data should be interpreted with caution; negative test reporting to the state DOH may be incomplete.
- There has been significant community interest around several COVID-19-related questions in the community, including:
 - How has the Delta variant impacted COVID-19 activity in Cowlitz County?
 - How have children been impacted by COVID-19, and has the Delta variant changed how they are impacted?
 - How many people are testing positive for COVID-19 after being vaccinated?

We appreciate the community engaging with us and are working on a separate report to address these questions, to be reported in the near future.

This report is published every other week to provide a narrative of current COVID-19 trends, data not available elsewhere online, and a more in-depth analysis in our “Spotlight” section on a COVID-19-related topic of interest. This report references data obtained from the Washington State Department of Health’s COVID-19 [Data Dashboard](#) and [Risk Assessment Dashboard](#), as well as more detailed in-house analysis of case, hospitalization, death, and other COVID-related data.

Data on case incidence, hospitalizations, percent positivity, and ICU occupancy are no longer provided in table format in this report, but can still be found on the state DOH’s [Data Dashboard](#) and [Risk Assessment Dashboard](#).

Do you have a question or comment about this report, or a suggestion for what to include in a future report? Please email us at Askcowlitzhealth@co.cowlitz.wa.us.

Daily case counts and hospitalizations have increased dramatically since early July and are currently at all-time highs; the per capita COVID-19 hospitalization rate among 35-49-year-olds is now on par with 65+-year-olds

Cowlitz County saw an average of 53 new confirmed and probable cases per day from specimens collected July 28 – August 3. Weekly case counts have seen a seven-fold increase since early July and are currently at an all-time high. Statewide case counts increased almost five-fold over the same time period and are about one-third lower than their winter peak. Case counts continue to increase both statewide and in Cowlitz County. Cowlitz County’s new per capita case rate is currently double the state average and the fourth-highest of the 39 total counties in the state. The vast majority of cases continue to be among residents who are not vaccinated.

Case counts are rising in all age groups. Children have seen the highest proportional increase in case counts; 35-49-year olds and 65+-year-olds have also experienced higher-than average increases. Case counts are increasing in most areas of the county; SE Rural Cowlitz County, which includes Ariel, Cougar, and the Cowlitz County portion of Amboy, has too few cases to assess time trends.

Cowlitz County saw an average of 1-2 Cowlitz County residents hospitalized for COVID-19 per day from July 18-31. New COVID-19 hospitalizations in Cowlitz County have spiked dramatically since early July and continue to increase. Our new COVID-19 hospitalization rate has hit an all-time high. Cowlitz County’s new per capita hospitalization rate is currently double the state average and the 8th highest of the 39 total counties in the state.

The per-capita hospitalization rate among 35-49-year-olds was lower than the rate among 65+-year-olds during the winter surge and is now similar between those two groups.

New COVID-19 deaths in Cowlitz County have been steady since around February, though they are lower than their peak over the holidays. New COVID-19 deaths in Cowlitz County have been above the state per capita average since around January.

The per capita molecular + antigen testing rate in Cowlitz County has decreased since mid-April and is currently about two-thirds lower than the state per capita rate.

For school operations (based on K-12 guidance from the [state DOH and CDC](#))

Based on the Levels of Community Transmission on the [CDC's COVID-19 Data Tracker Integrated County View](#), we are currently at a “High” level of COVID-19 community transmission, with a **one-week** case rate of 339 cases/100,000 population and a percent positivity of 29%.

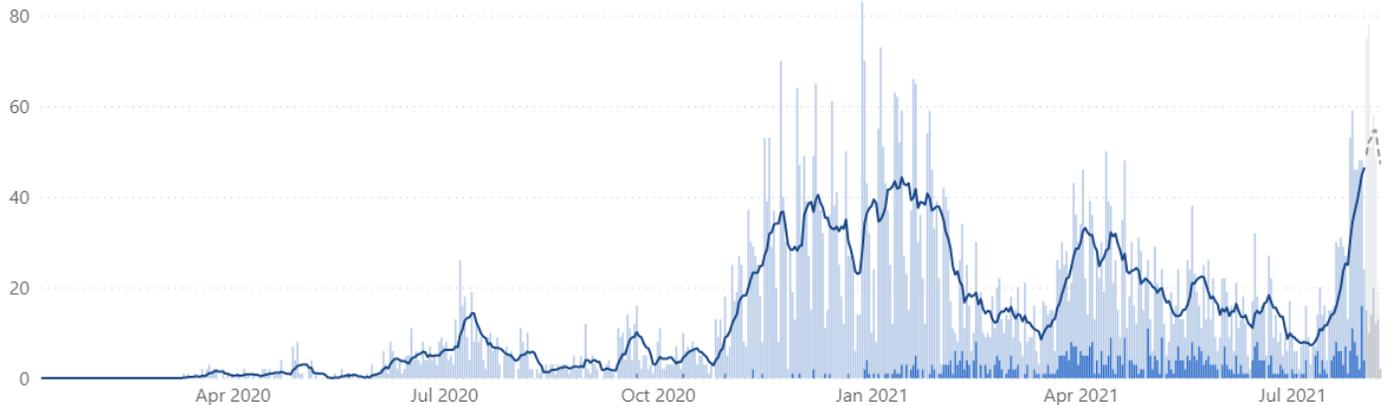
Note that the CDC's case rate is a one week case rate, which differs from the two-week case rate used in Washington State. Cowlitz County's most recent **two-week** case incidence rate is 557 cases/100,000 population.

Cowlitz County COVID-19 Epidemiologic Curve

This epidemiologic curve was screenshot from the Washington State Department of Health (state DOH) [Data Dashboard](#). The most current version of this curve can be found on the “Epidemiologic Curves” tab under “Cases” and “Cowlitz County”.

CASE COUNTS

● Probable Cases ● Confirmed Cases ● Incomplete (Probable Cases) ● Incomplete (Confirmed Cases) — Total Cases (7 day avg.) - - - Incomplete (7 day avg.)



Active cases

COVID-19 cases are considered “active”, or contagious, for 10 days after their symptom onset, or, for asymptomatic cases, 10 days after their test date. There are currently 414 identified active COVID-19 cases in Cowlitz County. Note that this does not include individuals who have COVID-19 but have not been identified as a case because they have not been tested.

Deaths

The number of deaths reported by the state DOH includes both confirmed and suspect deaths. Confirmed COVID-19 deaths are those with a positive COVID-19 test (molecular or antigen) and have COVID-19 listed on the death certificate. Suspected COVID-19 deaths are those that occur within 28 days of a positive COVID-19 test but do not have COVID-19 listed on the death certificate. Suspect deaths are removed from the state’s count if COVID-19 is later ruled out as the official cause of death following a clinical review. A clinical review may instead reclassify a suspect death into a confirmed death. As a result, the number of suspect deaths in the most recent month or two may decrease if they are ruled out or reclassified to “confirmed”. All confirmed and suspect COVID-19 deaths undergo a clinical review in Cowlitz County.

	2020										2021								Total
	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	
Suspect death	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
Confirmed death	0	0	0	0	5	1	1	0	6	18	17	15	6	6	8	12	6	0	101
Total deaths	0	0	0	0	5	1	1	0	6	18	17	16	6	6	8	12	6	1	103

Additional information on COVID-19 deaths

- Over 95% of confirmed deaths had underlying conditions.
- One-third of confirmed deaths to date were associated with a long-term care facility.

Variants & breakthrough cases

Note that information on these topics is rapidly evolving and the data are very dynamic. This report includes the most up-to-date data available, and may change as time goes on.

Variants

- Genetic sequencing of COVID-19 viruses allows public health to identify which variants of COVID-19 are circulating.
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's [SARS-CoV-2 Classifications and Definitions website](#) provides information on variants being tracked in the US.
- The latest statewide variant report with some county-level information can be found [here](#).

Breakthrough cases

- A “breakthrough case” is someone who becomes infected with COVID-19 after they are fully vaccinated. A person is considered fully vaccinated two weeks after receiving their final dose of the vaccine series. The first Cowlitz County residents to receive the COVID-19 vaccine became fully vaccinated in mid-January.
- The latest statewide breakthrough report can be found [here](#).