

8/25 UPDATES –

- There has been significant community interest around several COVID-19-related topics. In order to be responsive to this, we have separated out our Spotlight report section, to now be published independently of this biweekly report. These reports will no longer be published on a specific schedule, which we hope will allow us to be more responsive to community interests. Do you have a question about COVID-19 data? Please let us know by emailing us at Askcowlitzhealth@co.cowlitz.wa.us. Your question may be featured in a future report!

This report is published every other week to provide a narrative of current COVID-19 trends and data not available elsewhere online. 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? Please email us at Askcowlitzhealth@co.cowlitz.wa.us.

1% of the total Cowlitz County population tested positive for COVID-19 in the past two weeks; Daily hospitalizations have increased dramatically since early July and are currently at all-time highs

Cowlitz County saw an average of 80 new confirmed and probable cases per day from specimens collected August 10-16 and remain near all-time highs. Weekly case counts have seen an eleven-fold increase since early July. Statewide case counts increased eight-fold over the same time period and are close to their winter peak. Case counts may continue to increase or have begun to level off both statewide and in Cowlitz County. Cowlitz County's new per capita case rate is currently double the state average and the third-highest of the 39 total counties in the state. The vast majority of cases are among residents who are not vaccinated; more information about the vaccination status of cases can be found in the 8/25 Spotlight report on our [COVID-19 Reports and Presentations webpage](#). We will provide additional information on breakthrough cases as we are able to analyze the data more in the future.

Case counts have risen in all age groups. Children saw the highest proportional increase in case counts from late June through early August.

Cowlitz County saw an average of 5 Cowlitz County residents hospitalized for COVID-19 per day the week of August 18. 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 over double the state average.

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 and statewide has increased since early- to mid-July. Cowlitz County testing rates continue to trend below state averages.

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

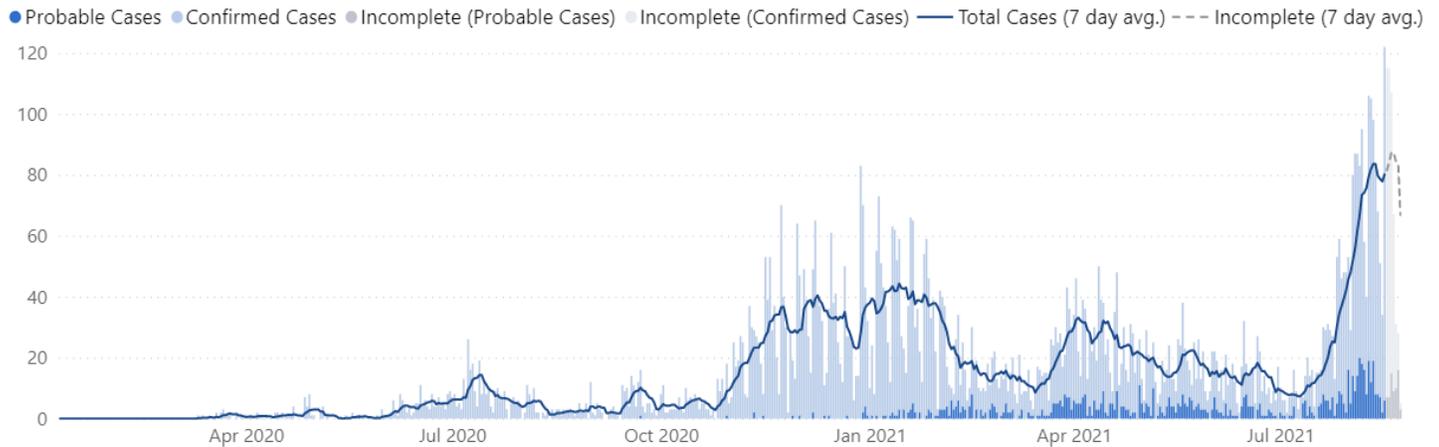
Based on the Levels of Community Transmission on the [CDC's COVID-19 Data Tracker Integrated County View](#), we are currently at a "High" level of COVID-19 community transmission, with a **one-week** case rate of 508 cases/100,000 population and a percent positivity of 30%.

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 1,011 cases/100,000 population. Put another way, 1% of the total Cowlitz County population has tested positive for COVID-19 in the past two weeks.

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



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	18	15	6	6	8	12	6	7	109
Total deaths	0	0	0	0	5	1	1	0	6	18	18	16	6	6	8	12	6	8	111

Additional information on COVID-19 deaths (data not updated since last report)

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

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 can be found [here](#).