Cowlitz County COVID-19 data   *Updated 2/17/22*

2/17 UPDATES –

- Information on the Omicron variant in Cowlitz County can be found in the "Variants" section on page 2 of this report.

- The state DOH's COVID-19 Data Dashboard has included an unknown number of duplicate case counts for the past couple of weeks. Our analysis for this report has removed duplicates for Cowlitz County. Because we typically access state-level data through the dashboard our comparisons with statewide data should be considered rough estimates.

This report is published every four weeks 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 as well as more detailed in-house analysis of case, hospitalization, death, and other COVID-related data. More frequent data updates can be found on our Facebook page and COVID-19 Data webpage. Updates on vaccine data can be found on our COVID-19 Vaccine webpage.

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.
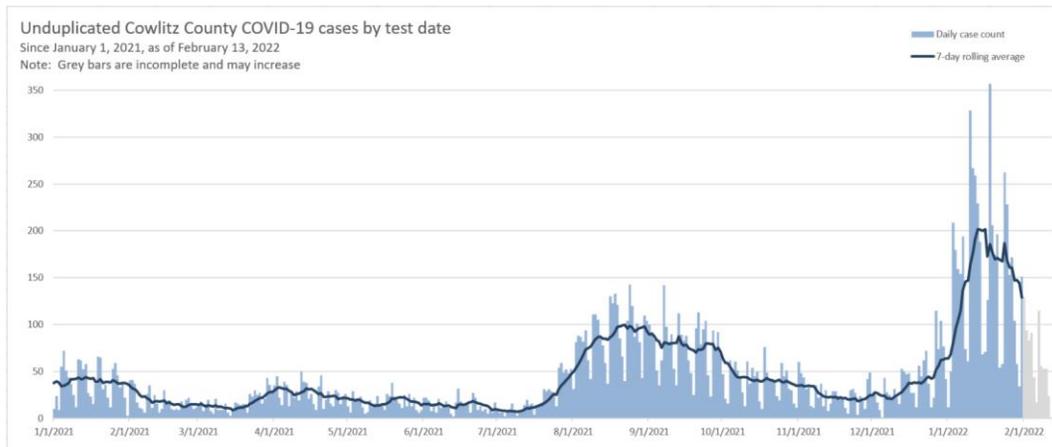
Cases peaked in January and are now declining, hospitalizations and deaths are steady
(Analysis of unduplicated counts)

	Unduplicated Cowlitz County data	**Statewide comparisons for context – use with caution*** ***contains duplicates - see note below**
Cases	Cowlitz County saw an average of 129 new confirmed and probable cases per day from specimens collected the last week of January. Case counts peaked around mid-January and are now declining. Case counts peaked and have leveled off or are declining among males and females, and most age groups and regions. Case counts continue to increase among 65-79 year-olds and Rural NE County, which includes Silver Lake and Toutle. School-age children aged 5-17, and Woodland residents, currently have the highest case rates in the county.	Statewide case counts also appear to have peaked around mid-January and are now declining. The current per capita case rate in Cowlitz County is roughly on par with the state rate.
Hospital admissions	Cowlitz County saw an average of 4 residents admitted to a hospital for COVID-19 each day the last half of January. New COVID-19 hospitalizations among Cowlitz County residents rose from the last half of December through mid-January and appear to have leveled off. Hospitalization admissions are increasing among residents aged 65+ and are steady among younger adult age groups.	Statewide hospital admissions appear to have peaked around mid-January and are now declining. The current per capita new hospital admission rate in Cowlitz County is roughly on par with the state rate.
Deaths	Cowlitz County saw an average of two people dying from COVID-19 every three days in December and January. Note that January figures are considered incomplete due to reporting lags.	Statewide deaths appear to be increasing. The current per capita death rate in Cowlitz County is roughly on par with the state rate.

*The analysis in this column is based on state Dashboard data for Cowlitz County and Washington State, which **contain duplicates**, and should be considered a rough estimate.

Cowlitz County COVID-19 Epidemiologic Curve

Cowlitz County's epidemiologic curve can be found on the Washington State Department of Health (state DOH) Data Dashboard on the "Epidemiologic Curves" tab under "Cases" and "Cowlitz County". Because that dashboard currently contains duplicates, we are providing the epi curve below with duplicate counts removed.

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 an esimated 1,113 identified active COVID-19 cases in Cowlitz County.** This represents **1.0% (or one out of every 100)** residents. Note that these only include cases that have been identified via a COVID-19 test. Because we know that some people with COVID-19 are not tested, and cases identified with at-home tests will probably not be reported, the true number of active cases is probably higher, and possibly much higher, than this figure.

Variants

➢ **The new Omicron variant has been identified in Cowlitz County residents.**

  o **The latest statewide variant report has more information and can be found here. The true number of residents infected with the Omicron variant is much higher than what is provided in this report.** Details are provided below.

➢ COVID-19 tests at doctors' offices or drive-thru testing sites detect the COVID-19 virus but do not differentiate between different variants of the virus. That's why your provider may say they can't test for variants, and our public health nurses can't tell you if you've tested positive for a specific variant. If you are infected with a specific variant, advice and patient care is the same as anyone who tests positive for COVID-19.

➢ Determining whether a person is infected with a variant of the SARS-CoV-2 virus requires a lab to perform genomic sequencing on a collected specimen. A specimen is the fluid collected from someone's nose with a test swab. Genomic sequencing looks at the virus genes for mutations specific to the different variants. If a mutation is detected in a specimen, it means that person was infected with the corresponding variant.

➢ Specimens from only about 10% of cases are sent for genomic sequencing. Specimens may be chosen for sequencing if they are from a unique case, such as a younger otherwise healthy person who is hospitalized for COVID-19. This may help identify new variants that could be more transmissible or cause more severe illness. The state DOH has also begun to sequence a random sample of specimens across the state to estimate the overall prevalence of variants.

➢ The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's SARS-CoV-2 Classifications and Definitions website provides information on variants being tracked in the US.
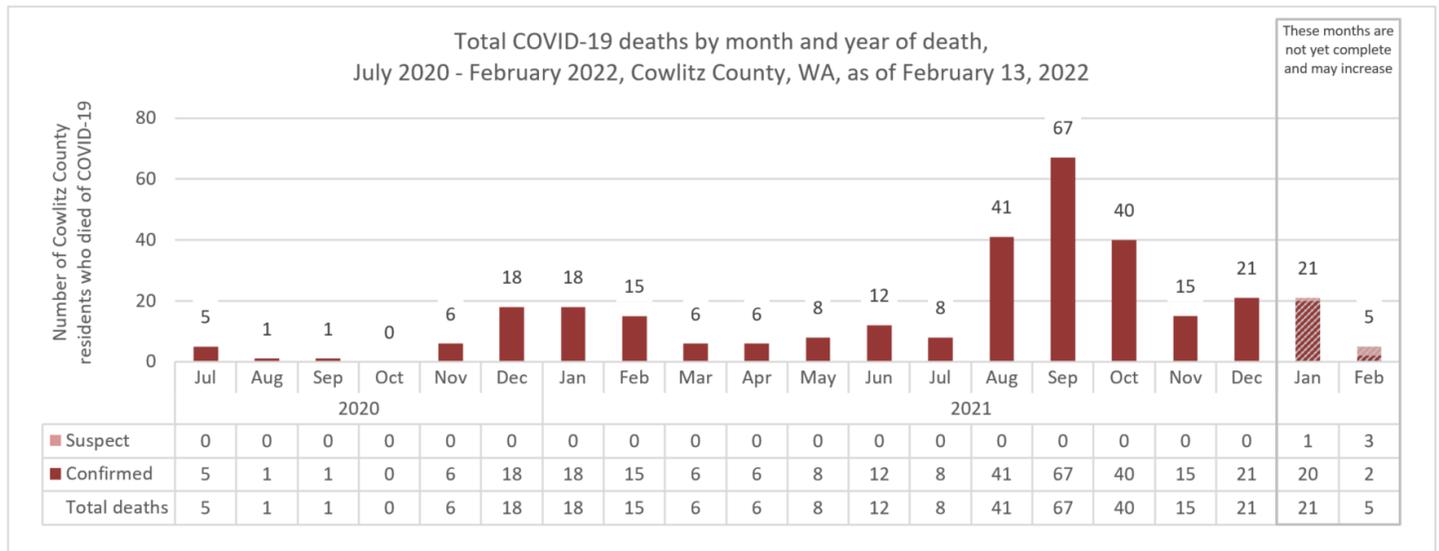
Deaths

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.

Note that the counts on this graph will not match the counts reported on the state DOH's COVID-19 Data Dashboard. The Dashboard reports deaths based on the decedent's test date. Our graph is based on the date of death, which we believe to be more meaningful.

COVID-19 death count to date among Cowlitz County residents:
- **314** total deaths
  - **310** were confirmed
  - **4** are considered suspect

Total COVID-19 deaths by month and year of death, July 2020 - February 2022, Cowlitz County, WA, as of February 13, 2022

These months are not yet complete and may increase

	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb
		2020											2021							
Suspect	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3
Confirmed	5	1	1	0	6	18	18	15	6	6	8	12	8	41	67	40	15	21	20	2
Total deaths	5	1	1	0	6	18	18	15	6	6	8	12	8	41	67	40	15	21	21	5

Additional information on COVID-19 deaths

Note: These data reflect figures as of this report (data were not available for several recent reports).

- Over 95% of total confirmed deaths had underlying conditions.

- About one out of every five total confirmed deaths were associated with a long-term care facility.