

Public Health COVID-19 update

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Board of Health

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Clark County

- Case numbers increased during the holiday season but appear to be slowing.
 - In the last week, we've averaged 103 cases per day, down from an average of 129 cases per day the previous week.
- COVID-19 activity rate was climbing, but decreased this week
 - COVID-19 activity rate reached its highest point last week – 473.7 cases per 100,000.
 - The rate decreased to 401.2 cases per 100,000 this week, which is still in the high range.
- Hospitalizations for COVID-19 cases have started to decrease.



Clark County cases

as of Jan. 26

	Current	Dec. 2 BOH meeting	Difference since last meeting
Number of positive cases	16,584	8,908	+7,676
Number of deaths	175	112	+63
Number of active cases	690	376	n/a
Rate per 100,000	401.23	427.64	-26.41



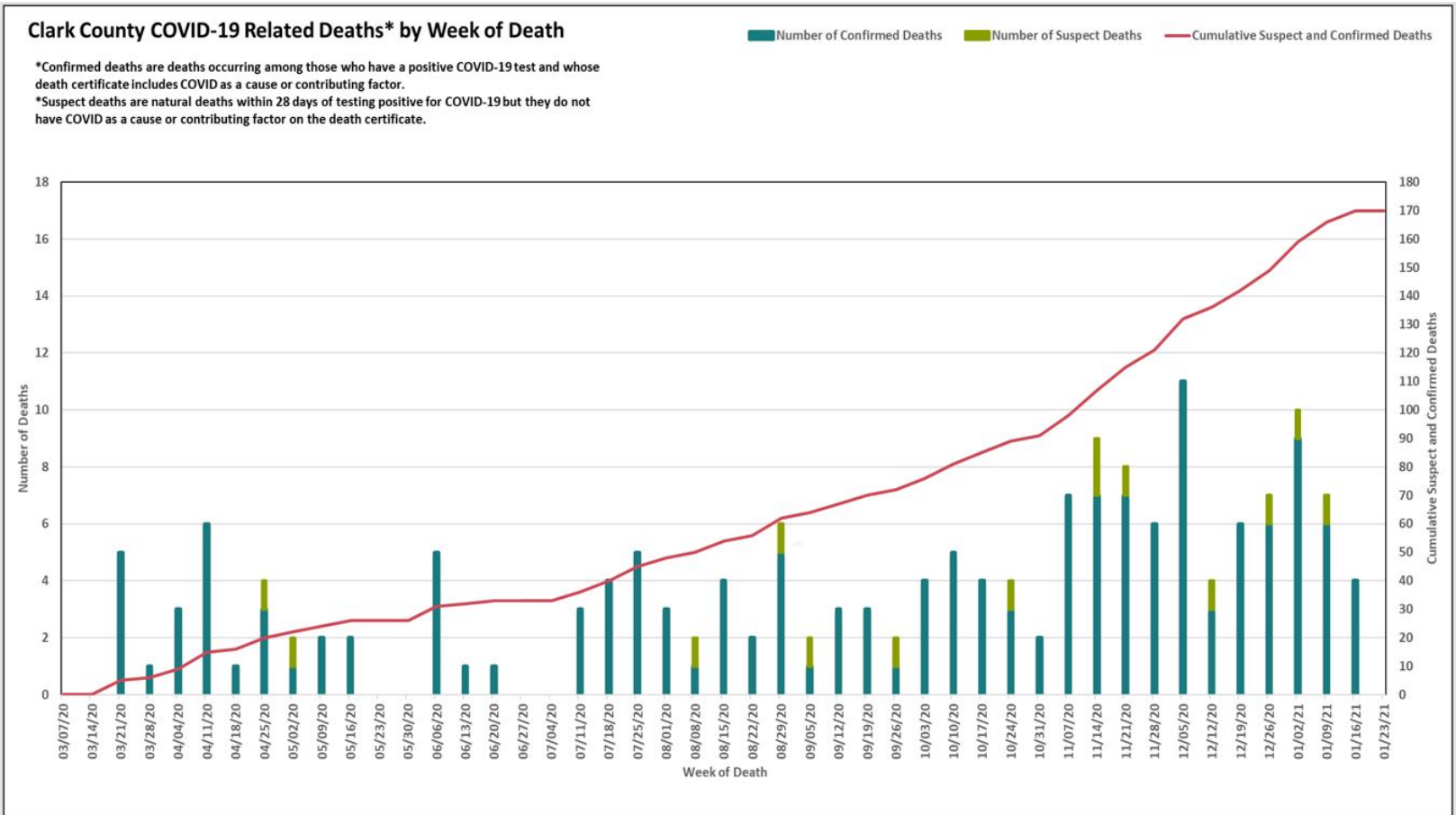
Clark County deaths

- In early December, Public Health completed a review of death data to determine why Public Health data and Department of Health (DOH) data did not match. Public Health identified:
 - confirmed deaths included in the DOH total that Public Health did not know about
 - deaths that, after a DOH vital statistics review, were determined to not be due to COVID-19
 - that DOH was reporting pending deaths; Public Health was not.
- Public Health and DOH are now both reporting the same classifications of deaths and only reporting deaths after final registration in the state database.
 - **Confirmed:** COVID is listed as cause of death or contributing factor and case has a positive COVID test.
 - **Suspect:** COVID is not listed as a contributing factor on the death certificate (but wasn't ruled out as cause of death) and they died after testing positive for COVID within 28 days.



Clark County deaths

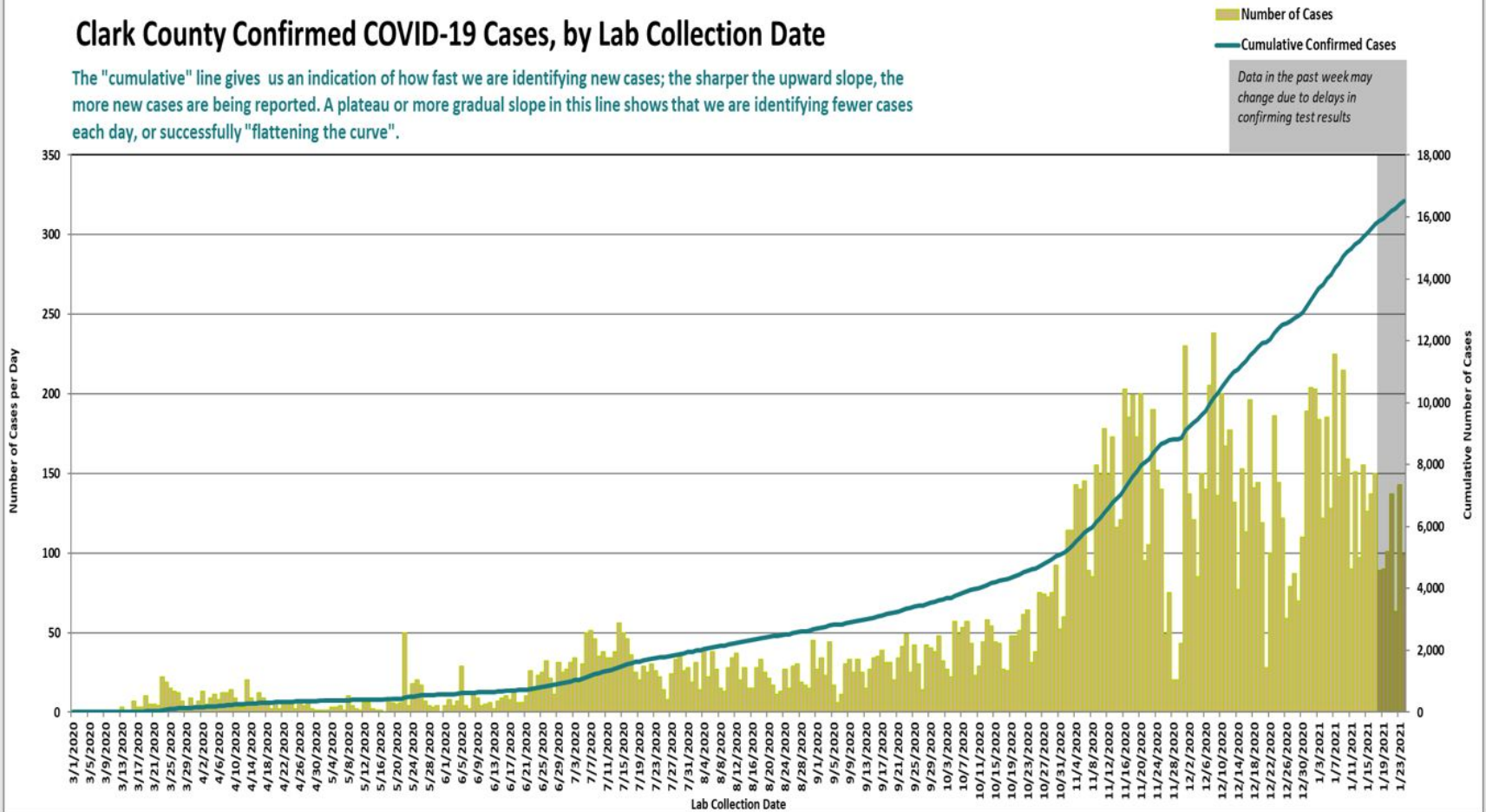
- Confirmed deaths: 161
- Suspect deaths: 14



Clark County cases

Clark County Confirmed COVID-19 Cases, by Lab Collection Date

The "cumulative" line gives us an indication of how fast we are identifying new cases; the sharper the upward slope, the more new cases are being reported. A plateau or more gradual slope in this line shows that we are identifying fewer cases each day, or successfully "flattening the curve".



Clark County hospitalizations

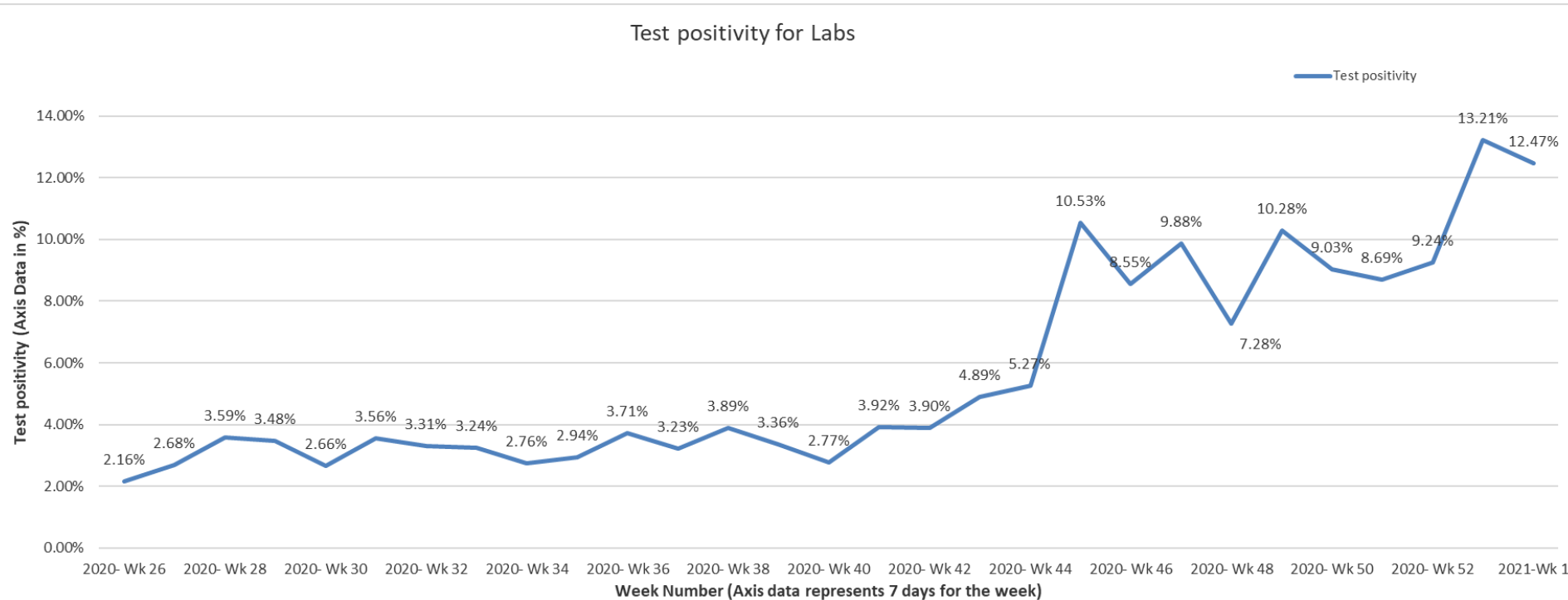
as of Jan. 26

Percent hospital beds occupied	81.0%
Percent ICU beds occupied	82.8%
Percent acute care beds occupied	80.2%
Percent hospital beds occupied by COVID-19 cases, PUIs	11.4%
COVID-19 cases hospitalized	53
PUIs hospitalized	13



Clark County test positivity

- Test positivity increased in late December and early January, with 12-13% of tests coming back positive.
 - Up from about 9% the previous two months



Tower Mall COVID-19 Community Testing Site

- Public Health partnered with city of Vancouver, CRESA and Department of Health to open a free testing site in the Tower Mall parking lot in central Vancouver.
 - Testing at the site is recommended for anyone 4 years and older who has symptoms of COVID-19 or was exposed to someone who tested positive for COVID-19.
- Open 9 am to 3:30 pm Tuesday-Saturday
- Drive-thru and walk-up testing
- Self-administered oral saliva PCR test
- Testing process takes about 20 minutes
- Results within 3 days
- Free for everyone, regardless of insurance coverage or immigration status.
- Pre-registration encouraged: www.ClarkCountyCOVIDtesting.org



Tower Mall COVID-19 Community Testing Site

Site opened to the public Tuesday, Jan. 12

- **2,160** tests administered in the first two weeks at the site
 - Average of 236 tests per day
- **261** people have tested positive, to date
- **12%** positivity, to date
 - Not unexpected to see a higher percentage of positive tests at the site because testing at the site is recommended for people with symptoms or a known exposure.
- **375** tests administered on the first day (Jan. 12)
 - Highest single-day so far



COVID-19 variants

- Viruses constantly change through mutation, and new variants of a virus are expected to occur over time.
- Multiple variants of the virus that causes COVID-19 have been documented in the United States and globally during this pandemic.
- One variant gaining a lot of media attention is the B.1.1.7 variant in the United Kingdom.
 - This variant spreads more easily and quickly than other variants.
 - Currently, there is no evidence that it causes more severe illness or increased risk of death.
 - This variant was first detected in September 2020 and is now highly prevalent in London and southeast England.
 - Last week, the variant was detected in Oregon and this weekend it was detected in Washington.



COVID-19 variants

- The UW Medicine Virology Lab screened 1,035 samples between Dec. 25, 2020 and Jan. 20, 2021 and detected 2 cases in Snohomish County.
 - A third case identified in Pierce County on Monday.
 - Data collected so far suggests a low prevalence of the B.1.1.7 variant in western Washington.
 - Likely that other cases exist and will come to light through ongoing surveillance.
- CDC estimates this strain will become the dominant strain in the U.S. within a few months.
- CDC is studying this variant and others to understand how widely they have spread and how the variants affect existing therapies and vaccines.
- Prevention measures for COVID-19 also work against variants: face coverings, physical distancing, frequent handwashing, avoid gatherings.



Healthy Washington – Roadmap to Recovery

- On Jan. 5, Gov. Inslee announced a new phased COVID-19 reopening plan called Healthy Washington – Roadmap to Recovery.
- The Healthy Washington plan went into effect Monday, Jan. 11.
- The state is divided into eight regions; all regions started in Phase 1.
 - Clark, Cowlitz, Klickitat, Skamania and Wahkiakum counties make up the Southwest Region.
- Plan currently has two phases. Each phase outlines allowed activities.
- Regions advance to Phase 2 when they meet metrics set by the Washington State Department of Health.
 - Metrics are related to COVID-19 rate and hospitalization trends, hospital ICU occupancy and COVID-19 test positivity.
 - Metrics are calculated for the region as a whole; and counties will advance as a region, not individually.



Healthy Washington – Roadmap to Recovery

- All regions in the state remain in Phase 1.
- Metrics recalculated every Friday. Metrics as of Friday, Jan. 22:

Southwest Washington region

Metric	Trend in 14-day rate of COVID-19 cases per 100k	Trend in 14-day rate of new COVID-19 hospital admissions per 100k	Average 7-day % of ICU staffed bed occupancy	7-day % of positive COVID-19 tests
Metric for moving to Phase 2	decrease >10%	decrease >10%	< 90%	< 10%
Metrics as of Jan. 22	+44%	+36%	54%	24%
Meeting/Not meeting metric	Not meeting	Not meeting	Meeting	Not meeting



COVID-19 vaccine

- COVID-19 vaccine in Clark County has primarily been allocated to a handful of local health care facilities.
 - Those facilities have increased capacity and now are each able to vaccinate several hundred people each day.
- COVID-19 vaccine allocation:
 - **37,975** total doses allocated to Clark County facilities through Week 6 (last week)
 - **23,225** first doses and **14,750** booster doses
 - **3,725** first doses allocated to Clark County facilities this week
- COVID-19 vaccine administered, as of Saturday:
 - **18,615** doses administered in Clark County
 - **16,932** people have received their first dose
 - **3,196** people are fully vaccinated

*doses and people vaccinated may not align because people may be vaccinated in a county other than where they live



Incident management team

- Pacific Northwest Incident Management Team 3 – one of 16 Type 1 IMTs in the country – arrived in Clark County on Tuesday, Jan. 19.
 - The team was requested by Clark, Cowlitz and Skamania counties, with support from the state.
 - FEMA approved the request.
- The three counties continue to work with Pacific Northwest Incident Management Team 3 to develop plans for opening vaccination sites throughout the three-county region.
- Plans include fixed-location and mobile vaccination sites.
 - These sites will be critical to ensuring high-risk populations in Southwest Washington have access to COVID-19 vaccination.



Incident management team

- The intent is to position sites in locations where residents have not been able to easily access vaccine and among communities and populations disproportionately impacted by COVID-19.
 - Such as communities of color and critical workers in congregate settings.
- In current phase (Phase 1b Tier 1), this could include mobile sites at adult family homes that are not enrolled in the federal program that utilizes pharmacies to vaccinate staff and residents in long-term care facilities.
- As more groups of people become eligible to be vaccinated, mobile sites could be located at food processing facilities, schools or other facilities with critical workers.



Fairgrounds vaccination site

- Washington Department of Health is operating a COVID-19 vaccination site at the Clark County Fairgrounds.
 - Vaccine is being administered by appointment only.
 - Site opened Tuesday, Jan. 26
 - Appointments scheduled for 9 am to 5 pm Tuesday to Friday.
 - Spots filled up quickly.
 - State intends to add appointments for future dates in the coming days.
- The state estimates vaccinating up to 500 people per day this week, with capacity increasing in the coming weeks as vaccine supply increases.



Public Health referral process

- Public Health has been accepting requests from people who are eligible for vaccination and need help accessing vaccine.
 - Public Health is referring those individuals to local health care facilities with vaccine.
 - To date, Public Health has referred more than 7,000 people through this process.
 - Currently, about 23,000 pending referrals.
- Vaccine supply continues to be very limited.
- Local health facilities received limited vaccine last week and some will not receive any additional COVID-19 vaccine this week.
 - This will limit Public Health's ability to refer people eligible for vaccination to local facilities.



Thank you!

