

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 are now declining.
 - In the last two weeks, we've averaged 38 cases per day.
- COVID-19 activity rate is declining.
 - COVID-19 activity rate reached its highest point in mid-January: 473.7 cases per 100,000.
 - Rate dropped into the moderate range the first week of February and continues to decrease.
 - The rate decreased to 137.0 cases per 100,000 this week.
- Hospitalizations for COVID-19 cases have also started to decrease.



Clark County cases

as of Feb. 23

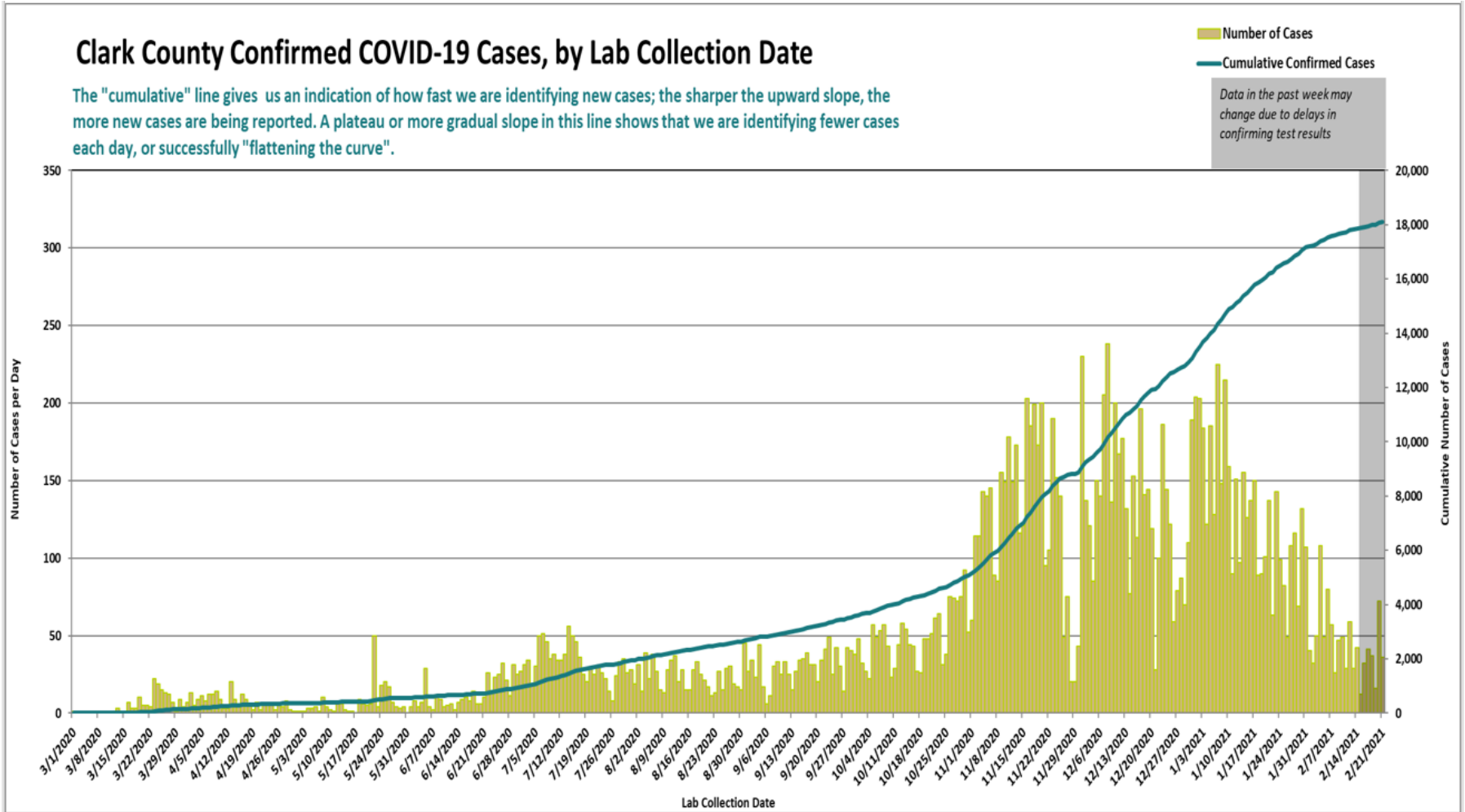
	Current	Jan. 27 BOH meeting	Difference since last meeting
Number of positive cases	18,135	16,584	+1,551
Number of deaths	221	175	+46
Number of active cases	245	690	n/a
Rate per 100,000	136.95	401.23	-264.28



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 Feb. 23

Percent hospital beds occupied	75.1%
Percent ICU beds occupied	62.5%
Percent acute care beds occupied	77.1%
Percent hospital beds occupied by COVID-19 cases, PUIs	6.1%
COVID-19 cases hospitalized	34
PUIs hospitalized	1



SARS-CoV-2 variants

- Viruses constantly change through mutation, and new variants of a virus are expected to occur over time.
- Multiple variants of SARS-CoV-2, 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.
 - Evidence around whether it causes more severe illness or increased risk of death is lacking.
 - This variant was first detected in September 2020 and is now highly prevalent in London and southeast England.
 - So far, studies suggest the COVID-19 vaccines currently authorized for use are effective against the B.1.1.7 variant.



SARS-CoV-2 variants

- Last month, Washington State Department of Health announced the first cases of the B.1.1.7 variant in Washington.
 - This week, DOH announced another 19 known cases.
 - To date, there are 39 known cases of the B.1.1.7 variant in Washington.
- This week, DOH announced the first case of the B.1.351 variant in Washington.
 - This variant was first identified in South Africa.
 - Variant is not known to cause more severe illness; unclear whether it spreads more easily.
 - This strain can reduce the effectiveness of some vaccines.
 - Additional information about the Washington case, including travel history, is unknown.
- Currently, there are no known cases of the P.1 variant in Washington.
 - This variant originated in Brazil.



SARS-CoV-2 variants

- Two weeks ago, Public Health announced we had identified the first two cases of the B.1.1.7 variant in Clark County.
- Specimens from these two cases were sent to Northwest Genomics Center (a lab at the University of Washington).
 - The lab confirmed the variant by whole viral genome sequencing and notified Public Health of the results.
- One of the two cases had traveled outside of the country prior to testing positive for COVID-19.
- But cases appear unrelated and the other case did not travel, suggesting the variant is circulating in Clark County.
- Public Health response doesn't change and the presence of the variant in Clark County doesn't change any of our recommendations.
 - It's more important than ever that we continue to take preventive measures.



Tower Mall COVID-19 Community Testing Site

- Free COVID-19 testing continues at the Tower Mall COVID-19 Community Testing Site.
 - Site is open 9 am to 3:30 pm Tuesday through Saturday.
 - 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.
- Site opened to the public Tuesday, Jan. 12. In the first month of operation (through Feb. 13):
 - **4,648** tests administered
 - **527** people tested positive
 - **11.5%** positivity
- **375** tests administered on opening day (Jan. 12)
 - Highest single-day so far
- Site operations were impacted a couple of days due to the winter weather.



Healthy Washington – Roadmap to Recovery

- Under the new COVID-19 reopening plan, Healthy Washington – Roadmap to Recovery, the state is divided into eight regions.
 - Clark, Cowlitz, Klickitat, Skamania and Wahkiakum counties make up the Southwest Region.
- 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.
- Regions must meet 3 of 4 metrics to advance to Phase 2.



Healthy Washington – Roadmap to Recovery

- Southwest Region met 3 of 4 metrics in the update Feb. 11.
 - The region moved to Phase 2 on Sunday, Feb. 14.
 - All regions are now in Phase 2.
- The move to Phase 2 lessens restrictions on several activities, including:
 - Indoor dining can resume at 25% capacity
 - Indoor recreation and fitness is permitted at 25% capacity
 - Indoor entertainment, such as theaters and bowling alleys, can resume at 25% capacity.
- The region must continue to meet 3 of 4 metrics to remain in Phase 2.
- Metrics are calculated every other Friday.
 - Next update is this Friday.



COVID-19 vaccine allocation process

- Each week, the federal government allocates vaccine to the state for the following week.
- Health care facilities, pharmacies request the amount of vaccine they would like to receive for the following week.
 - Public Health can provide input on which facilities are priority.
- The state Department of Health looks at requests and amount of vaccine coming from the federal government and decides how to divide vaccine across the state.
 - Requests are always greater than the amount of vaccine available.
 - Last week, DOH received requests for 436,720 doses and will receive 263,570 doses from the federal government.
- Facilities find out a few days later how much vaccine they can expect – it may be less than requested or not filled at all.
 - Couple days later, the facility receives vaccine.



Clark County vaccine allocation

- **71,825** total doses allocated to Clark County facilities through Week 10 (last week):
 - **40,000** first doses
 - **31,825** booster doses
- Vaccine allocated to Clark County facilities this week (Week 11):
 - **5,950** first doses
 - **6,680** second doses
- Over 11 weeks, Clark County facilities have been allocated an average of about 3,600 first doses per week.
 - Clark County has about 89,000 people 65+ years old, which is just one group currently eligible to be vaccinated.
- The 5,950 first doses allocated to Clark County this week marks the highest amount of vaccine allocated in a week since Week 2, when the county was allocated 10,050 doses.



Clark County vaccine allocation

- Clark County Public Health reviewed the data on first doses vaccine being allocated to counties by Washington State Department of Health.
- We compared the allocation for 15 counties:
 - Five counties with highest population
 - Five counties with lowest population
 - Five counties with median population
- We compared:
 - Total number of first doses allocated
 - Number of first doses per 1,000 residents*
 - First-dose allocation as a percentage of the total county population*

**Using 2019 Census population estimates*



Clark County vaccine allocation

County	Doses per 1000	Percent First Dose Allocation	Total First Doses	Total Population (Per 2019 Census estimate)
Chelan	285.8	28.6	22,065	77,200
Garfield	269.7	27.0	600	2,225
Lincoln	207.5	20.8	2,270	10,939
Wahkiakum	200.5	20.1	900	4,488
Columbia	175.7	17.6	700	3,985
Whitman	175.6	17.6	8,800	50,104
Walla Walla	164.2	16.4	9,975	60,760
Grays Harbor	159.1	15.9	11,945	75,061
Mason	154.9	15.5	10,345	66,768
Spokane	145.9	14.6	76,275	522,798
King	132.4	13.2	298,205	2,252,782
Snohomish	121.1	12.1	99,565	822,083
Pierce	111.9	11.2	101,225	904,980
Clark	94.1	9.4	45,950	488,241
Ferry	91.8	9.2	700	7,627



COVID-19 vaccine administered

- COVID-19 vaccine administered, as of Saturday, Feb. 20:
 - **44,941** doses administered in Clark County
 - **40,352** people have received their first dose
 - **16,928** people are fully vaccinated

*doses and people vaccinated may not align because people may be vaccinated in a county other than where they live
- Data on doses administered is delayed.
- Data doesn't reflect the doses facilities have allocated to people (appointments scheduled for first and second doses).



Incident management team

- The Type 1 IMT arrived in Clark County on Jan. 19.
 - The team was requested by Clark, Cowlitz and Skamania counties, with support from the state and approved by FEMA.
- The three counties worked with the Type 1 IMT to develop plans for opening fixed-location and mobile vaccination sites throughout the three-county region.
 - 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.
- Last week, Public Health stood up its IMT.
 - Team is staffed largely by Clark County Public Health staff, with some additional contracted staff experienced in incident command.
- The Type 1 team spent last week coaching local staff and transitioning work over to the Southwest Washington Regional Public Health IMT.



Community vaccination sites

- Twice this month, Public Health has deployed mobile teams to vaccinate residents and staff at adult family homes and other long-term care facilities.
 - More than 1,000 people vaccinated at about 150 adult family homes, several other long-term care facilities.
- Next week, we'll deploy mobile teams to vaccinate eligible residents at several housing authority facilities.
 - Teams will also return to adult family homes to provide second doses.
- Working with Safeway to procure vaccine through the federal pharmacy program in order to open a community vaccination site in Vancouver.
- We continue to work with community partners to identify additional possible site locations, such as schools, workplaces and churches.



Public Health referral process

- Public Health continues to accept 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 about 11,350 people through this process.
 - Currently, nearly 37,000 pending referrals.
- Local health facilities have received very little vaccine the last several weeks.
 - This has limited Public Health's ability to refer people eligible for vaccination to local facilities.
- The Public Health call center, which opened last week, is helping people who cannot fill out the form on the website or who are experiencing language barriers.
 - Public Health Institute is staffing the call center and filling out the form for individuals who call.



Public Health call center

- Public Health opened a call center on Feb. 8.
 - Call center is supported by the Public Health Institute, which also provides support for case interviews.
- The call center is open 8 am to 5 pm Monday through Friday.
 - Call 888.225.4625
 - Language assistance is available.
- Call center is helping people to fill out Public Health vaccine referral request forms and directing people to resources to determine their eligibility and where they can schedule vaccine appointments.
 - To date, have helped **261 people** fill out referral forms
- The call center has received **986 calls** since opening two weeks ago.
 - 666 calls about vaccine scheduling, appointments
 - 248 calls about fairgrounds scheduling
 - 82 calls about general vaccine guidance
 - 76 calls about vaccine eligibility, doses guidance



Fairgrounds vaccination site

- Washington Department of Health continues to operate the COVID-19 vaccination site at the Clark County Fairgrounds.
 - Site opened Tuesday, Jan. 26.
- For the first three weeks, the fairgrounds was offering first doses of COVID-19 vaccine.
 - Appointments would open up each weekend and fill up quickly.
- Last week and this week, the fairgrounds site is only offering second doses (for those who received their first doses during the first two weeks the site was open).
 - No additional first-dose appointments have been made available the last two weeks.
 - Likely will only offer second doses next week, as well.



Thank you!

