

Public Health COVID-19 update

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Board of Health

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Clark County

- Case numbers appear to be plateauing.
 - In the last two weeks, we've averaged 35 cases per day.
- COVID-19 activity rate has been declining and appears to be beginning to plateau.
 - COVID-19 activity rate reached its highest point in mid-January: 473.7 cases per 100,000.
 - Decreased for eight consecutive weeks after that peak.
 - This week, the rate increased slightly to 90.5 cases per 100,000 (up from 88.8 cases per 100,000)
- Hospitalizations for COVID-19 cases remain below 5%.



Clark County

as of March 23

Number of positive cases	19,093
Number of active cases	275
Number of total deaths	241
Number of confirmed deaths	216
Number of suspect deaths	25
Rate per 100,000	90.5

- Hospital data:
 - **19** COVID-19 patients hospitalized
 - **3** COVID-19 PUIs awaiting test results hospitalized
 - **76.6%** licensed beds occupied
 - **73.4%** ICU beds occupied
 - **78.1%** acute beds occupied
 - **3.8%** licensed beds occupied by COVID-19 cases and PUIs



SARS-CoV-2 variants

- Multiple variants of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, have been documented.
- Three variants of concern:
- B.1.1.7 (UK):
 - Spreads more easily and quickly than other variants.
 - Evidence around whether it causes more severe illness or increased risk of death is lacking.
 - Recent study of 55,000 UK patients considered to be relatively low-risk diagnosed with SARS-CoV-2 in the UK between October 2020 to January 2021 showed an overall 1.6-fold increase in risk of death compared with infection with previous strains.
 - 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

- Variants of concern continued:
- B.1.351 (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.
- P.1 (Brazil)
 - 17 unique mutations
 - Evidence suggests some mutations may affect the ability of antibodies (natural and from vaccine) to recognize and neutralize the virus.



SARS-CoV-2 variants

- In Washington, the B.1.1.7 variant (U.K.), B.1.351 (South Africa) and P.1 (Brazil) variants have been detected.
 - **B.1.1.7:** 146 cases detected
 - **B.1.351:** 8 cases detected
 - **P.1:** 2 cases detected
- In Clark County, 3 cases of the B.1.1.7 variant have been detected.
- Public Health response doesn't change but the presence of the variant is a reminder that we must be vigilant with measures that prevent the spread of COVID-19 in our community:
 - Face coverings
 - Physical distancing
 - Avoiding gatherings
 - Hand washing
 - Staying home when sick



Healthy Washington – Roadmap to Recovery

- On Monday, Clark County and the rest of the state moved into Phase 3 of the Roadmap to Recovery reopening plan.
- Under the updated plan, counties are individually evaluated every three weeks (no longer a regional approach).
 - Large and small counties have different sets of criteria.
- To remain in Phase 3, Clark County must continue to have:
 - 14-day COVID-19 activity rate at or below 200 per 100,000 residents **AND**
 - 7-day rate of new hospitalization per 100,000 residents at 5 or fewer
- The first evaluation of metrics will occur Monday, April 12, with any changes going into effect Friday, April 16.
 - If a county fails one or more metric, it moves down one phase.
 - If statewide ICU occupancy is higher than 90%, all counties move down one phase.



Phase 3 – Roadmap to Recovery

- Indoor occupancy for all industries and activities allowed in Phase 2 increases to 50% or 400 people maximum, whichever is less.
 - Applies to restaurants, gyms, retail stores, personal services, professional services, movie theaters, among others.
- Spectators will be allowed to attend outdoor sporting venues with permanent seating with capacity capped at 25%.
 - Applies to professional and high school sports, motorsports, rodeos and other outdoor spectator events.
 - Social distancing and face coverings are still required.
- People can attend outdoor activities and events in indoor facilities, with capacity capped at 400 people (if 400 people does not exceed 50% capacity)
 - Physical distancing and masking protocols required.
 - Larger venue events are capped at 25% occupancy or up to 9,000 people, whichever is less.



Clark County vaccine allocation

- COVID-19 vaccine allocation to Clark County increased considerably after Public Health shared the data comparing allocation per capita among 15 counties in the state.
- Through the first 11 weeks, Clark County received an average of 4,175 first doses of COVID-19 vaccine from the Washington State Department of Health.
- State allocation to Clark County since then:

Week	# of first doses	# second doses
Week 12	14,140	8,780
Week 13	14,970	5,540
Week 14	17,710	6,950
Week 15 (current)	6,950	12,100



Clark County vaccine allocation

- Allocation data from DOH doesn't include the vaccine coming into Clark County through the Federal Retail Pharmacy Program.
 - Some pharmacies receive state and federal vaccine allocation
 - Tower Mall vaccination site also utilizes federal vaccine program through Safeway
- With increased vaccine allocation to Clark County, Public Health has been able to work through its waiting list to get people referred for vaccination appointments.
 - Receiving about 200 requests per day.
 - Referrals are typically made within 24 hours.
- As of Tuesday afternoon, Public Health had made more than 56,700 referrals for vaccination.

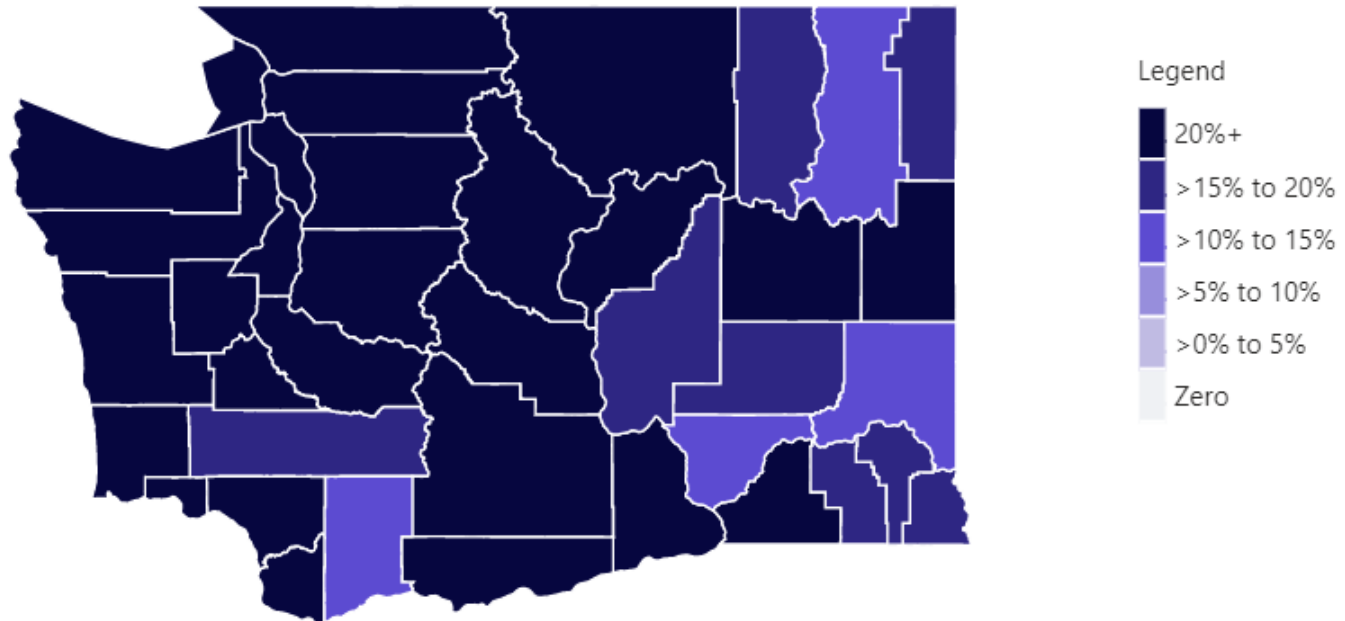


COVID-19 vaccine administered

as of Saturday, March 20

- **123,102** doses administered in Clark County
- **98,910** Clark County residents (20.25%) have received their first dose
- **47,057** Clark County residents (9.63%) are fully vaccinated

PEOPLE INITIATING VACCINATION (RECEIVING AT LEAST 1 DOSE)



Guidance for people fully vaccinated

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recently issued guidance for people who are fully vaccinated.
- A person is considered fully vaccinated:
 - Two weeks after their second dose in a two-dose series (Pfizer or Moderna vaccines)
 - Two weeks after receiving a single-dose vaccine (Johnson & Johnson)
- If it has been less than two weeks or if the second dose is still needed, they are NOT fully protected.
 - They should continue taking all preventive steps until fully vaccinated.



Guidance for people fully vaccinated

- Those who are fully vaccinated can:
 - gather indoors with fully vaccinated people without wearing a mask.
 - gather indoors with unvaccinated people from one other household without masks, unless any of those people or anyone they live with has an increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19.
- Those who are fully vaccinated and have been around someone who has COVID-19 do not need to quarantine or get tested unless they develop symptoms.
 - Except those who live in a group setting. They should quarantine for 14 days and get tested.



Guidance for people fully vaccinated

- Even people who are fully vaccinated should continue to take preventive measures – wearing face coverings, maintaining physical distancing and avoiding crowds – in many situations, including:
 - When in public
 - When gathering with unvaccinated people from more than one other household
 - Visiting with an unvaccinated person who is at increased risk of severe illness from COVID-19 or who lives with a person at increased risk.
- Fully vaccinated people should also continue to:
 - Avoid medium and large gatherings
 - Follow workplace guidance
 - Get tested if they develop COVID-19 symptoms
- Preventive measures, even once fully vaccinated, are important to continue until enough of our community is vaccinated to provide widespread protection.



Phase 1b Tiers 3-4

- Currently, those in Phase 1a and Phase 1b Tiers 1-2 are eligible to get vaccinated.
- Gov. Inslee and DOH recently announced changes to the timeline for Tiers 3-4 and added additional groups to those tiers.
- Beginning March 31, Tiers 3-4 will be eligible:
 - People 16 years or older with 2 or more comorbidities
 - People 60 years and older
 - People, staff and volunteers in certain congregate living settings
 - correctional facilities, congregate settings where people experiencing homelessness live or access services, group homes for people with disabilities
 - Other at-risk critical workers in certain congregate settings
 - restaurants/food services, manufacturing, construction
- All adults will be eligible by May 1, per the president's directive.



Tower Mall vaccination site

- Public Health continues to partner with city of Vancouver and Safeway to operate the Tower Mall vaccination site.
 - Site operates Friday, Saturday, Monday and Tuesday
- Yesterday, we completed the third week of operations.
 - The first week, we vaccinated about 600 people per day.
 - Increased capacity to 840 per day the second week and 1,000 per day the third week.
- In the first three weeks, we vaccinated about 8,900 people at the site.
 - First doses of Pfizer vaccine.
- This Friday, we will begin administering second doses for those who received their first dose three weeks ago.
 - Site will also offer about 400 first dose appointments each day.
- The link for scheduling first dose appointments is available on the Public Health website.



Public Health vaccination efforts

- On March 13, Public Health hosted a one-day vaccination clinic at Woodland High School.
 - With support from Woodland School District, Medical Reserve Corp volunteers, Clark-Cowlitz Fire and Rescue, and North Country EMS.
 - Vaccinated 500 people in about 5 hours.
- Public Health has completed mobile delivery efforts at adult family homes and is finishing up second doses at housing authority facilities in the next week.
- Public Health is now working with local food processing facilities to identify possibilities for on-site vaccination clinics.
 - Prioritizing facilities that have had COVID-19 outbreaks and have diverse workforce.



Thank you!

