# COVID-19 update

#### Alan Melnick, MD, MPH, CPH May 25, 2021



According to the state situation report issued May 19:

- Case counts are declining statewide and either declining or flattening in most counties.
  - Among the five largest counties, case counts in Clark and Spokane are flat, while King, Pierce, and Snohomish are seeing declines.
- Vast majority of cases in the state are now associated with variants of concern.
  - Estimated 80% of all cases likely due to B.1.1.7 variant and about 10% due to P.1 variant
- Transmission decreased sharply over the last two weeks of April, but was still relatively high as of April 30.
  - Behavior- and variant-based reproductive number: 1.34
  - Total reproductive number (includes effects of immunity): 0.88



#### Washington

- As of May 6, case rates were declining in most age groups and flattening in the rest.
  - Cases were flattening among children ages 0-9 and adults 60-69, and remained flat in people age 70 and older.
  - Case rates continued to be highest among people ages 20-29, followed by ages 10-19 and ages 30-39.
- Hospital admissions were declining slightly in people ages 20-79 as of May 6.
  - More recent data from hospitals suggests total hospital admission rates are continuing to flatten or decline slightly as of mid-May.
- The hospital admission rate for COVID-19 in unvaccinated people ages 45-64 is about 18 times higher than people of the same age who are fully vaccinated.
  - For people ages 65 and older, the hospital admission rate is about 11 times higher among people who are unvaccinated than those who are fully protected.

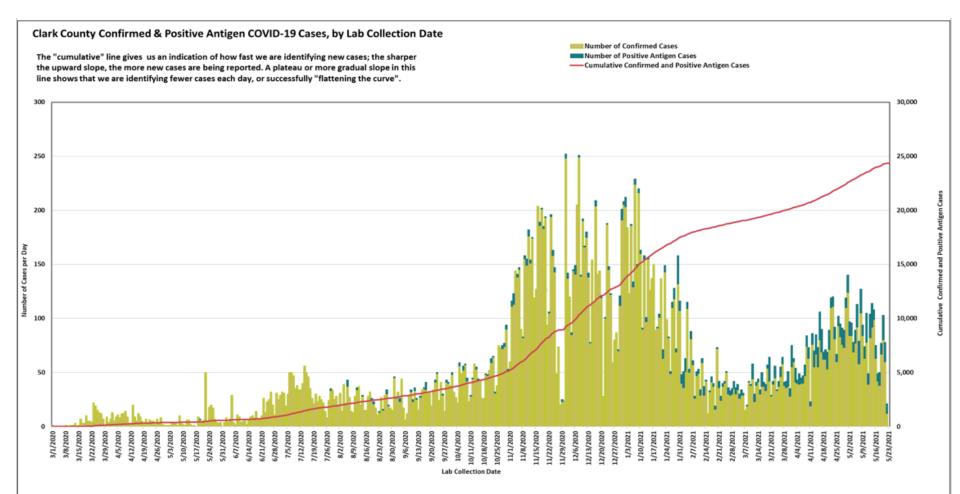


### Clark County

- Case numbers appear to be flattening or beginning to decrease.
  - Several weeks ago, we averaged more than 100 cases per day.
  - In the last two weeks, we've averaged 88 cases per day.
- Clark County's COVID-19 activity rate is now decreasing.
  - The rate increased each week since March 15, from 88.8 cases up to 276.6 in early May.
  - The rate has decreased each of the last two weeks, down to 251.6 this week.
- Clark County hospitalizations for COVID-19 cases have increased recently.
  - New hospital admission rate is up to 7.8 cases per 100,000 this week, from 6.4 cases per 100,000 last week.
  - ICU occupancy also exceeded 90% a several times in the last two weeks.



### **Clark County**





## **Clark County**

as of May 25

Number of confirmed cases	23,037
Number of antigen probable cases	1,290
Number of active cases	488
Number of total deaths	270
Rate per 100,000	251.6

- Hospital beds occupied: 72.8%
- ICU bed occupied: **93.9%**
- Acute care beds occupied: 70.4%
- Beds occupied by COVID-19 cases, PUIs: 7.9%
  - 43 COVID-19 cases hospitalized
  - 3 COVID-19 PUIs (awaiting test results) hospitalized



#### SARS-CoV-2 variants

- Variants continue to be a concern.
  - Vast majority of SARS-CoV-2 infections in Washington state are attributed to variants of concern.
- Four of the five variants of concern have been detected in Clark County: B.1.1.7 (UK), B.1.427 and B.1.429 (California) and P.1 (Brazil)
- B.1.1.7 (UK):
  - Spreads more easily and quickly than other variants.
    - About 50% increased transmission
  - Potential increased severity based on hospitalizations and case fatality rates.
    - 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.



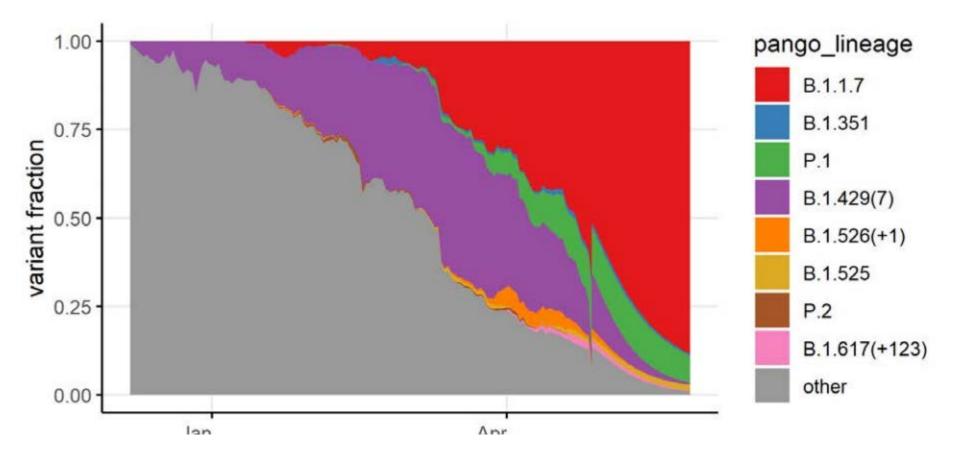


#### SARS-CoV-2 variants

- B.1.427 and B.1.429 (California):
  - Evidence they are slightly more contagious
    - About 20% increased transmission
  - Some COVID-19 antibody treatments may be less effective against the strains.
- P.1 (Brazil)
  - Evidence suggests some mutations of P.1 variant may affect the ability of antibodies (natural and from vaccine) to recognize and neutralize the virus.
  - Some COVID-19 antibody treatments may be less effective against the strains.



#### SARS-CoV-2 variants





#### Healthy Washington – Roadmap to Recovery

- Every county in the state is currently in Phase 3.
- On June 30, the state will reopen and most public spaces will return to full capacity.
  - The reopening could happen earlier than June 30 if 70% or more of Washington residents 16 years or older have at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine.
  - Currently, 61% of state residents 16 years and older have at least one dose.
- The reopening plan could change is the state's COVID-19 data changes or if the state's ICU capacity reaches 90% at any point.



### CDC recommendations for fully vaccinated people

- CDC recently announced new recommendations for people who are fully vaccinated.
  - You're considered fully vaccinated two weeks after getting your second dose of Pfizer or Moderna or two weeks after getting the single-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine.
- Under the new CDC recommendations:
  - People who are fully vaccinated do not need to wear masks in outdoor or indoor settings or maintain physical distancing, except health care settings (like hospitals, long-term care, or doctor's offices), correctional facilities, homeless shelters, or schools.
  - The federal order requiring masks on public transportation also still applies.
  - Businesses retain the right to require masks in their establishments, and to ask for proof of vaccination.
- Gov. Inslee announced the state of Washington is adopting the CDC's guidance for fully vaccinated people.



#### Washington workplace guidance

- The governor's office and Labor & Industries released updated workplace face covering requirements on Friday.
- Under the updated guidance:
  - Fully vaccinated employees do not have to wear a mask or be physically distanced at work, unless their employer still requires it.
  - Before ending mask and physical distance requirements, employers must confirm workers are fully vaccinated
    - Confirm by having the worker sign a document attesting to their status or provide proof of vaccination.
  - Employers must be able to demonstrate they have verified vaccination status for workers who are not masked or physically distanced.
    - Must be available to L&I upon request.
- Employers may still require mask use if they choose.
- If an employee is not fully vaccinated or their vaccination status is unknown, employers must continue to require masks and physical distancing.

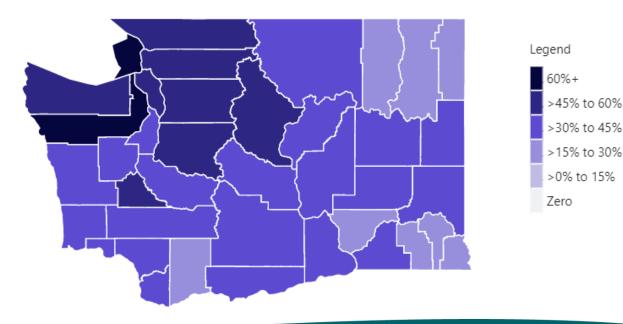


#### COVID-19 vaccine administered

#### as of Saturday, May 22

- 379,581 doses administered in Clark County
- 216,824 Clark County residents have received at least one dose
  - 43% of residents all ages; 55% of residents 16+ years
- 178,515 Clark County residents are fully vaccinated
  - 36% of residents all ages; 45% of residents 16+ years

TOTAL POPULATION INITIATING VACCINATION (RECEIVING AT LEAST 1 DOSE)





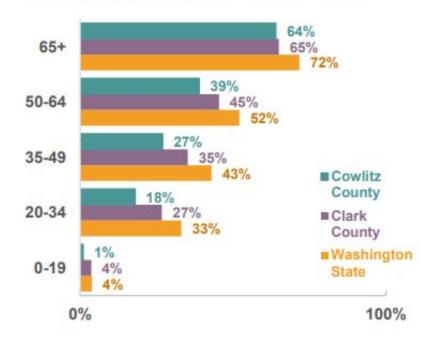
#### **DEMOGRAPHICS OF PEOPLE VACCINATED AGAINST COVID-19**

70% 65+ 71% 78% 51% 50-64 56% 63% 39% 35-49 48% 57% Cowlitz County 29% 20-34 41% Clark 47% County 4% ■ Washington 0-19 8% State 8% 0% 100%

Percent of population in each age group who

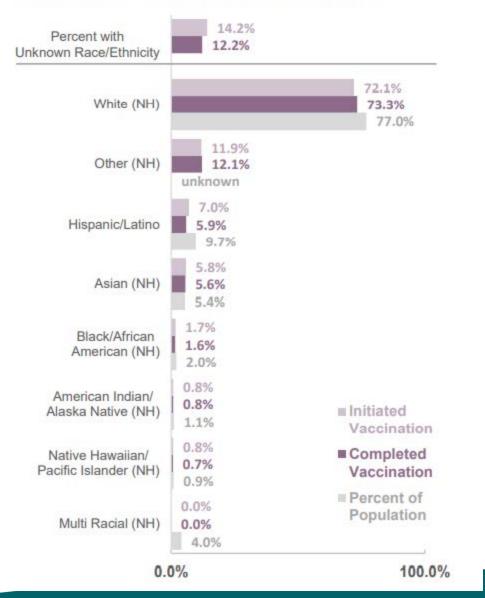
have initiated\* COVID-19 vaccination

Percent of population in each age group who have **completed** COVID-19 vaccination





#### Racial/ethnic breakdown of people in Clark County who are vaccinated against COVID-19 (among those with a known race/ethnicity)





#### Tower Mall vaccination site

- Public Health continues to partner with city of Vancouver and Safeway to operate the Tower Mall vaccination site four days per week.
- With COVID-19 vaccine now readily available at a variety of local pharmacies and medical offices, Public Health and partners have decided to close the Tower Mall site next month.
- Tuesday, June 29 will be the last day of operations.
  - Continue to offer first and second doses of Pfizer.
  - People who receive a first dose after June 8 can go to a local Safeway or Albertsons pharmacy, or another local site offering Pfizer, for their second dose.
- State is closing the vaccination site at the fairgrounds Friday, May 28.
  - Tower Mall will provide second doses for people who received first doses at the fairgrounds.
- More than 36,000 doses of Pfizer have been administered at Tower Mall
  since the site opened on March 5.



#### Public Health IMT

- Public Health's incident management team (IMT) is preparing to demobilize.
- IMT response began in January with the arrival of a federal Type 1 team in Southwest Washington.
- In late February, the Type 1 team transitioned work to the Southwest Washington Regional IMT.
  - The regional team has been staffed largely by Clark County Public Health, with some additional contracted staff experienced in incident command.
- The IMT is working on a demobilization plan that will integrate COVID-19 vaccine response work into Public Health programs.
  - Plan to have transition complete by June 30.



#### Public Health vaccination efforts

- Public Health recently visited several local encampments and shelters that provide services to people who are unhoused to offer COVID-19 vaccination.
  - In the last two weeks, we've vaccinated:
    - 64 people at two shelters
    - 20 people at two encampments
- Public Health continues to vaccinate people who are homebound.
  - Vaccinated 15 homebound residents this week.
- Public Health is also continuing efforts to make COVID-19 vaccine easily accessible by hosting vaccination clinics throughout the county.



### Public Health vaccination efforts

- Hosted a one-day vaccination clinic last Saturday at Hathaway Elementary School in Washougal.
  - Vaccinated 168 people with Pfizer.
    - Will return June 12 for second doses.
  - Vaccinated 137 people with Johnson & Johnson
- Hosting a vaccination clinic today at Ridgefield High School.
  - Worked with Ridgefield School District and the associated student body (ASB) club at Ridgefield High School
  - Open to students (with parent consent) and the community
  - Providing Pfizer and Johnson & Johnson vaccine
    - Will return June 16 for Pfizer second doses
- Public Health will host a vaccination clinic 3-7 pm Wednesday, June 2 at North Country EMS Administration Building in Yacolt.
  - Providing Pfizer and Johnson & Johnson vaccine
    - Will return June 23 for Pfizer second doses
  - Appointments and walk-ins



#### Vaccination site process

- Public Health vaccination clinics are open to the community.
  - Pfizer vaccine is available for those 12 and older; Johnson & Johnson vaccine is available for those 18 and older.
- Appointments are scheduled using the state's PrepMod website.
  - Majority of people schedule in advance.
  - Electronic copy of the vaccine emergency use authorization fact sheet is provided during appointment registration.
- Upon arrival at the site, clients fill out a vaccine administration form and answer screening questions.
  - Printed emergency use authorization fact sheets are available.
- Next, they go to registration.
  - Those with appointments check in.
  - Those without appointments are walked through the PrepMod registration process by Public Health staff or volunteers.



#### Vaccination site process

- After registration, they go to medical screening.
  - Registered nurses screen everyone to be vaccinated and ask clients if they have any questions about the vaccines or the vaccination process.
- Next, they go to the vaccination station.
  - Medical staff review the vaccination process with clients and ask if they have any questions prior to administering the vaccine.
- Upon vaccination, clients are provided a printed copy of the emergency use authorization fact sheet and a flyer about the CDC's V-safe monitoring system.
  - Materials are available in multiple languages.
- Finally, clients move to the monitoring area where they remain under medical supervision for 15-30 minutes.
- To date, Public Health has administered more than 3,300 doses of vaccine at these short-term vaccination clinics.

