COVID-19 update

Alan Melnick, MD, MPH, CPH June 23, 2021



Washington

According to the state situation report issued June 21:

- Statewide case counts and hospital admissions continued to decline as of June 3, but were starting to flatten slightly.
 - Case rates continue to decline in all age groups except people 70 and older, among whom rates remained flat.
 - For people ages 20-69 years, rates are approaching the low levels last seen in March, before the fourth wave began.
 - Hospital admission rates are also declining in people ages 20-79 and flattening among people 80 and older, after recent increases.
- As of the end of May, statewide COVID-19 transmission levels remained relatively high.
 - Estimated reproductive number, as of May 28: 1.03



Washington

- Hospital admission data shows vaccination is protecting people from severe illness.
 - Hospital admission rates among unvaccinated people ages 45-64 continues to increase, despite declining rates in the overall population in that age group.
 - For people 65+, admission rates are flattening at a high level for unvaccinated people and were flat, but much lower, in the overall population in that age group.
 - Hospital admission rate for unvaccinated people is 21 times
 higher than for vaccinated people in ages 45-64 and 15 times
 higher in unvaccinated people compared to vaccinated people in
 ages 65 and older.



Hospitalization of adolescents

- CDC's June 4 Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report looked at COVID-19 hospitalizations among adolescents 12-17 years old.
 - COVID-19 hospitalization rates among adolescents increased March-April 2021.
 - COVID-19 hospitalization among adolescents exceeded historical rates of influenza hospitalizations.
- Adolescent COVID-19 hospitalization rates from October 2020 to April 24, 2021 were 2.5-3 times higher than influenza-associated hospitalization rates from the three previous flu seasons.
- 31% of adolescents hospitalized for COVID-19 from Jan. 1 to March 31, 2021 were admitted to an ICU.
 - 5% required invasive mechanical ventilation
 - No deaths



Hospitalization of adolescents

- Among adolescents hospitalized, most were female (53%), Hispanic or Latinx (31%), Black (36%) and had at least one underlying health condition (71%).
 - Most common health conditions: obesity (36%), chronic lung disease, including asthma (31%), neurologic disorders (14%).
- After declines in January and February 2021, COVID-19 hospitalizations among adolescents increased in March and April.
 - Hospitalization rates among people 65+ years old the group with the highest COVID-19 vaccination rate – stabilized during the same time period.
- Increased hospitalizations among adolescents may be attributed to circulation
 of more transmissible variants, more students returning to school and other
 in-person indoor activities, and changes in preventive measures.
 - Vaccination of adolescents is expected to reduce risk in these settings.
- Increased rates of adolescent hospitalization and potential for severe disease reinforce the importance of continued preventive measures among adolescents, including vaccination and mask wearing.

Clark County

- Case numbers are decreasing.
 - In the last two weeks, we've averaged 36 cases per day.
- COVID-19 activity rate is lowest it's been since early April.
 - Rate this week decreased to 134.8 cases per 100,000 over 14 days.
 - Case rates continue to be highest among young adults 20-39 years old.
- Rate of new COVID-19 hospitalizations is beginning to decline.
 - Rate this week is 6.6 cases per 100,000 over 7 days.

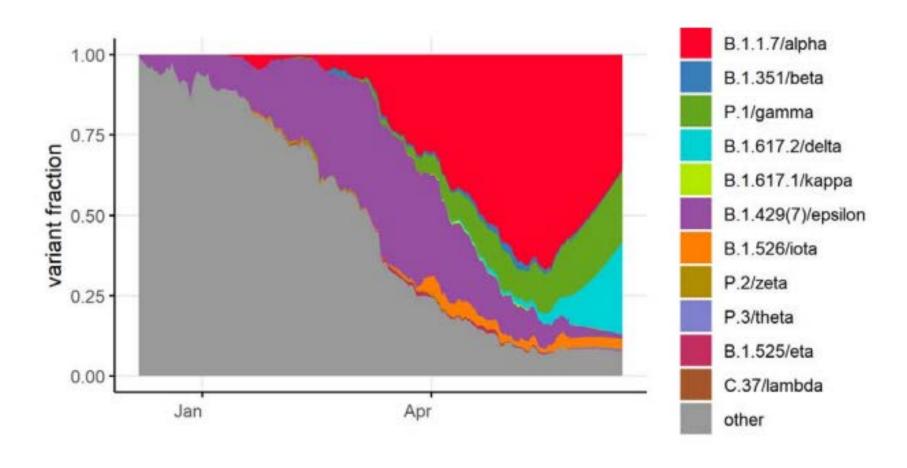


SARS-CoV-2 variants

- Vast majority of SARS-CoV-2 infections in Washington state continue to be attributed to variants of concern.
 - Variants of concern are those with evidence of increased transmissibility, more severe disease (increased hospitalizations or deaths), significant reduction in neutralization by antibodies (natural or from vaccine), reduced effectiveness of treatments or vaccines, or diagnostic detection failures.
- Variants of concern continue to pose additional risks for outbreaks and impacts to the health system, especially in places where vaccination rates are lower.
- Projections based on data through May 25 indicate:
 - B.1.1.7/alpha accounts for about 40% of cases statewide and shows signs of declining
 - P.1/gamma accounts for about 20% of cases and growth may be flattening
 - B.1.617.2/delta variant shows rapid growth, and may currently account for around 20% of cases



SARS-CoV-2 variants





SARS-CoV-2 variants

- B.1.617 (India)
 - Multiple strains of the B.1.617 variant
- B.1.617; B.1.617.1; B.1.617.3 are classified as variants of interest.
- B.1.617.2, also known as Delta, is classified as a variant of concern.
 - Increased transmissibility.
 - Variant may affect the ability of antibodies (natural and from vaccine) to recognize and neutralize the virus.
- B.1.617 variant has been identified in eastern and western Washington, but not in Clark County.



SARS-CoV-2 variants of concern

- B.1.1.7 (UK):
 - Highly infectious, transmissible and can spread quickly from person to person.
 - Potentially causes more severe symptoms and increased risk of death in individuals who are infected, based on published studies.
 - So far, studies suggest the COVID-19 vaccines are effective against the B.1.1.7 variant.
- 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.



SARS-CoV-2 variants of concern

- P.1 (Brazil)
 - Highly infectious, transmissible and can spread quickly from person to person.
 - Evidence suggests some mutations of P.1 variant may affect the ability of antibodies (natural and from vaccine) to recognize and neutralize the virus.
- B.1.351 (South Africa)
 - Highly infectious, transmissible and can spread quickly from person to person.
 - Evidence suggests some mutations of B.1.351 variant may affect the ability of antibodies (natural and from vaccine) to recognize and neutralize the virus.



Healthy Washington – Roadmap to Recovery

- Washington will reopen on or before June 30 and most industries will return to full capacity.
- Even after state reopens, masking guidance will remain in place.
 - Those who are fully vaccinated (two weeks after completing vaccination) do not need to wear masks in outdoor or indoor settings, except in health care settings (like hospitals, long-term care, or doctor's offices), correctional facilities, homeless shelters, schools and public transportation.
 - People who are not fully vaccinated still need to wear face coverings.
- Capacity restrictions will remain for large indoor venues.
 - Venues that can accommodate 10,000+ people will be limited to 75% capacity.
 - State will re-evaluate at the end of July.
- Certain COVID-19 mitigation measures will remain at schools and universities.

COVID-19 vaccine administered

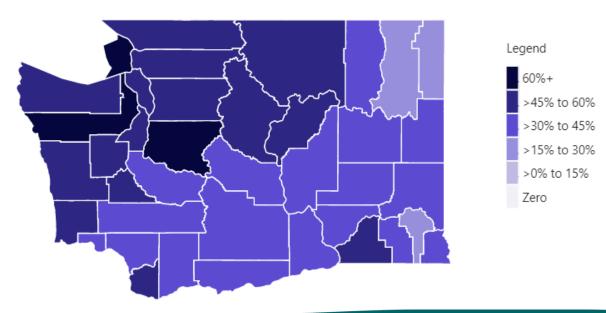
Washington state

- 66% of residents 16+ years have received at least one dose
- 59% of residents 16+ years have completed vaccination

Clark County

- 60% of residents 16+ years have received at least one dose
- 53% of residents 16+ years have completed vaccination

TOTAL POPULATION INITIATING VACCINATION (RECEIVING AT LEAST 1 DOSE)

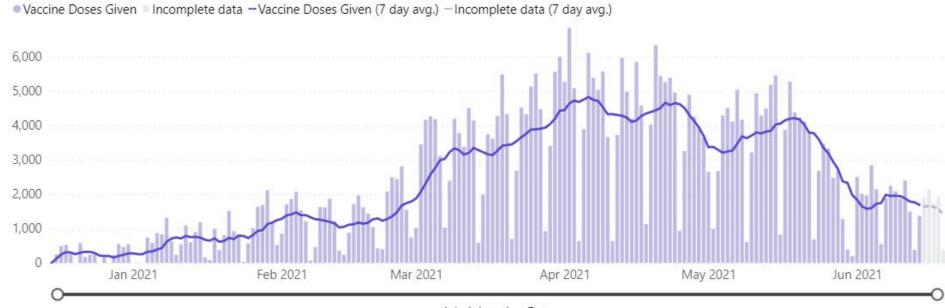




Clark County COVID-19 vaccine administered

- COVID-19 vaccine uptake is slowing
 - Currently averaging about 1,700 doses per day.
 - At peak, averaged about 4,700 doses per day.

VACCINE DOSES GIVEN BY DATE

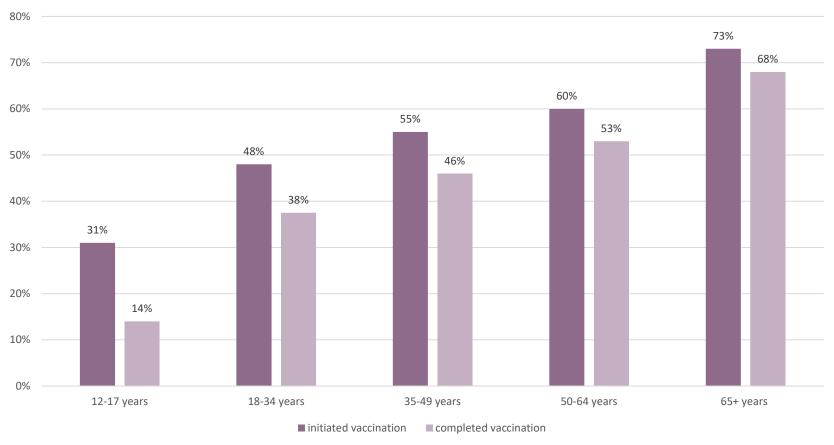




Administration Date

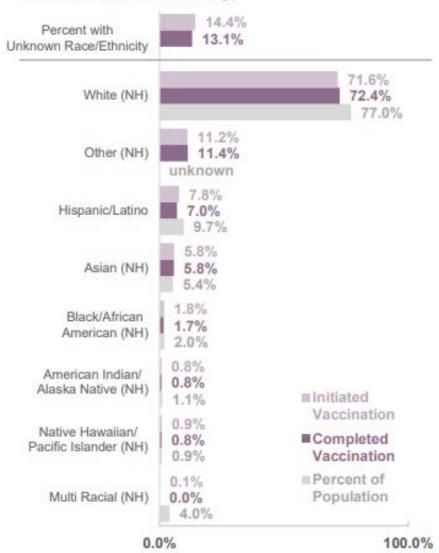
COVID-19 vaccine administered

Clark County COVID-19 vaccination by age





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





Public Health vaccination efforts

- Public Health is wrapping up COVID-19 vaccination efforts as the incident management team prepares to demobilize on June 30.
- This Wednesday, we'll return to the North Country EMS administration building in Yacolt to provide Pfizer second doses.
 - Will also offer Pfizer first doses and Johnson & Johnson.
- Public Health continues efforts to vaccinate people who are homebound and those who are unhoused.
 - Vaccinating homebound residents as we receive requests.
 - Providing Johnson & Johnson vaccine at a local shelter this week and a church providing services to people who are unhoused next week.



Public Health vaccination efforts

- The Tower Mall vaccination site will close at the end of the day Tuesday, June 29.
- Partnering with the Greater Vancouver Chamber of Commerce to provide \$50 gift cards to people who get vaccinated at Tower Mall on Friday, June 25.
 - Chamber received grant funding from the Department of Commerce to distribute gift cards.
 - Available to people getting first or second doses.
- Tower Mall will be one of six sites providing gift cards. Other sites include:
 - PeaceHealth Memorial campus (downtown Vancouver)
 - The Vancouver Clinic (Tech Center, Battle Ground & Ridgefield)
 - Sea Mar Community Health Center (Fourth Plain)



Public Health vaccination efforts

- Public Health has been working to increase vaccine access throughout the county through mobile and fixed-location vaccination sites.
- Mobile pods: 2,869 doses administered (Pfizer, Moderna and J&J), including:
 - 96 people who are unhoused
 - 40 homebound residents
 - 1,549 adult family home residents and staff
 - 569 housing authority facility residents and staff
 - 402 long-term care facility residents and staff
- Food processing facilities: 546 people vaccinated (J&J vaccine)
- Community vaccination sites: 1,210 doses of J&J and 2,522 doses of Pfizer
 - Includes sites in Fruit Valley, Woodland, Washougal, Ridgefield and Yacolt
- Tower Mall: 41,479 doses of Pfizer