COVID-19 update

Alan Melnick, MD, MPH, CPH June 8, 2021



Washington

According to the state situation report issued June 5:

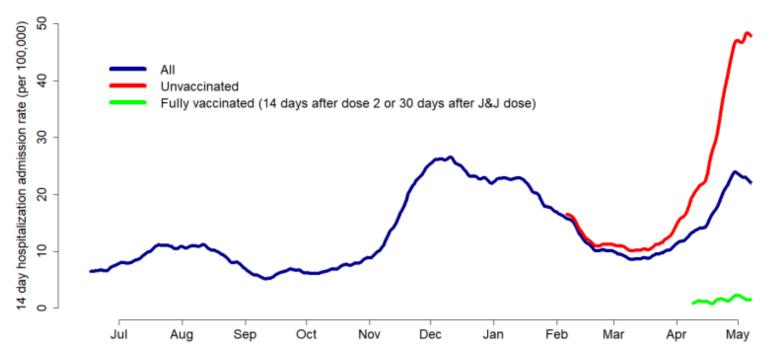
- Statewide case counts continue to decline.
 - Five largest counties are seeing declines.
 - 31 of 39 counties had rates of less than 200 cases per 100,000 over 14 days.
- Case rates are declining across all age groups, except people 70 years and older, among whom rates have stayed mostly flat since March.
 - Hospital admission rates are similar declining among people ages
 20-69 and remaining flat but high in ages 70 and older.
- Number of hospital beds occupied by COVID-19 patients is declining.
 - Number of ICU beds occupied by COVID-19 patients has remained fairly flat.
- While case numbers are decreasing, the level of virus transmission was still fairly high as of mid-May.
 - Estimated reproductive number: 0.95



Washington

- The hospital admission rate in unvaccinated people ages 45-64 is about
 21 times higher than people of the same age who are fully vaccinated.
 - For people ages 65 and older, the hospital admission rate is about 13 times higher among people who are unvaccinated than those who are fully protected.

Hospitalization rate by vaccine status in those 45 to 64





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

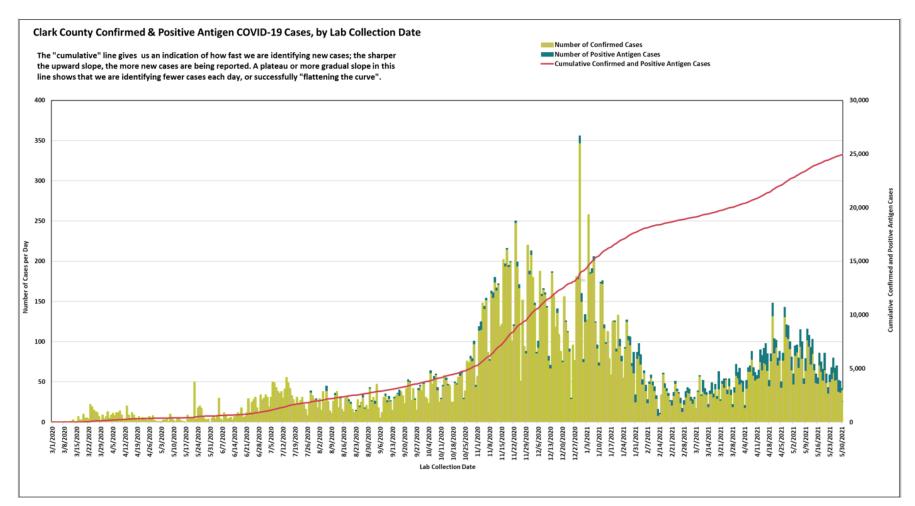
- Among adolescents hospitalized, most were female (53%), Hispanic or Latinx (31%), Black (36%) and had at least one underlying health condition (71%).
 - Most common health conditions: obesity (36%), chronic lung disease, including asthma (31%), neurologic disorders (14%).
- After declines in January 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.
 - A month ago, we were averaging nearly 100 cases per day.
 - Over the last two weeks, we've averaged 61 cases per day.
- Clark County's COVID-19 activity rate is decreasing.
 - Rate reached 276.6 on May 10 but has decreased each week since.
 - This week, the rate decreased to 194.1, first time below 200 since late-April.
- Clark County continues to see 7-9% of hospital beds occupied by COVID-19 cases.
 - That's about 40-60 COVID cases and people suspected to have COVID-19 (awaiting test results) hospitalized.
- Recently, ICU beds occupied has been high in Clark County (more than 90%).



Clark County





SARS-CoV-2 variants

- Vast majority of SARS-CoV-2 infections in Washington state continue to be attributed to variants of concern.
 - Estimated 75% of cases are attributed to B.1.1.7 and about 8% are attributed to P.1.
 - Cases attributable to B.1.1.7 continue to grow, whereas growth in P.1. cases appears to be flattening.
- The state is not sequencing samples from every confirmed COVID-19 case, but the number of specimens sequenced and the percent of confirmed cases that have had sequencing performed continues to increase.
 - During the month of April, 17.4% of all confirmed COVID-19 cases were sequenced.

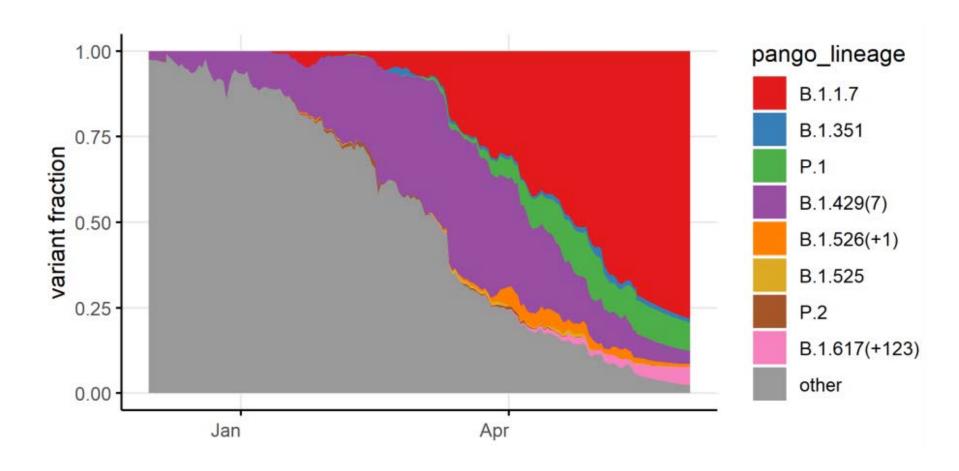


SARS-CoV-2 variants

- 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.
 - 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.
- 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.
- 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.



COVID-19 vaccine administered

as of Saturday, June 5

Washington state

- 7.3 million doses administered
- 3.9 million residents have received at least one dose
 - 64% of residents 16+ years (51% all ages)
- 3.4 million residents are fully vaccinated
 - 55% of residents 16+ years (45% all ages)

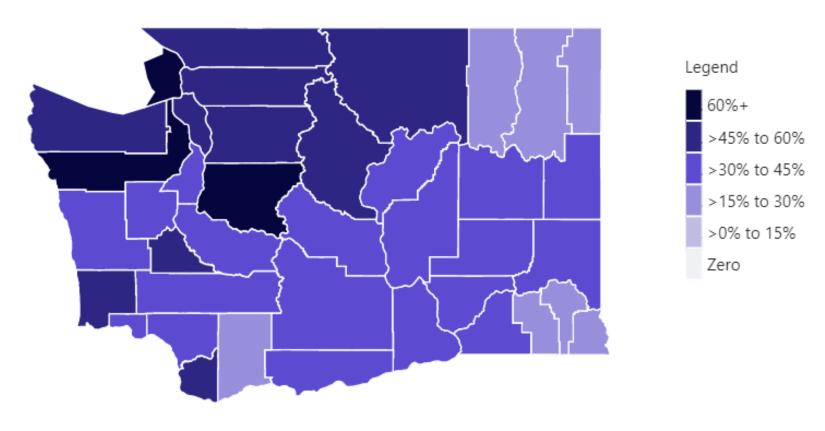
Clark County

- 414,483 doses administered in Clark County
- 228,763 residents have received at least one dose
 - 58% of residents 16+ years (46% all ages)
- 195,845 residents are fully vaccinated
 - 49% of residents 16+ years (39% all ages)



COVID-19 vaccine administered

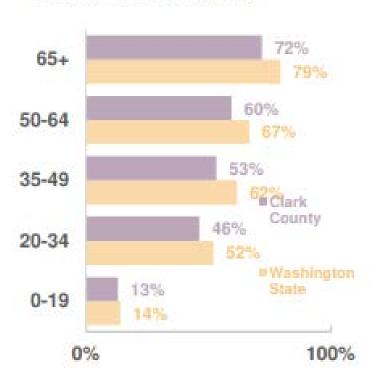
TOTAL POPULATION INITIATING VACCINATION (RECEIVING AT LEAST 1 DOSE)



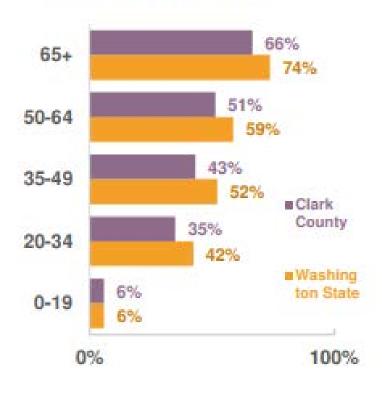


Demographics of people vaccinated

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

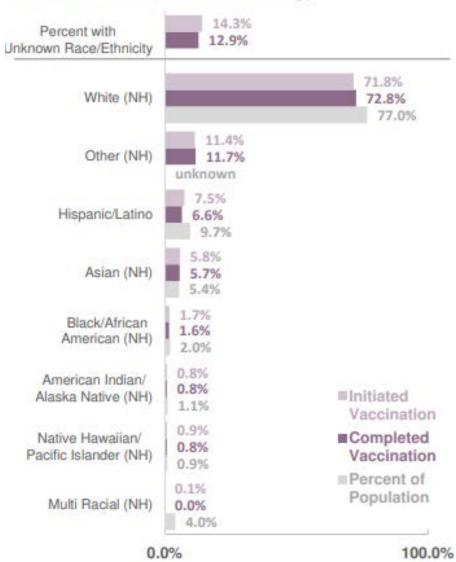


Percent of population in each age group who completed COVID-19 vaccination





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





Public Health vaccination efforts

- Public Health continues efforts to make COVID-19 vaccine easily accessible by hosting vaccination clinics throughout the county.
- Last week, we hosted vaccination clinics in Yacolt and Woodland.
 - Administered nearly 50 doses of Pfizer and Johnson & Johnson vaccine in Yacolt.
 - We'll return June 23 to provide Pfizer second doses.
 - Administered nearly 200 doses of Pfizer and Johnson & Johnson vaccine in Woodland.
 - Provided second doses for those who received a first dose during our May 8 clinic, as well as Pfizer first doses and J&J.
- This Saturday, we'll return to Hathaway Elementary School in Washougal to provide Pfizer second doses to people who received first doses on May 22.
 - We will also offer Pfizer first doses and Johnson & Johnson.



Public Health vaccination efforts

- Public Health is also vaccinating people who are homebound and those who are unhoused.
 - Vaccinating homebound residents as we receive requests.
 - Plan to vaccinate at least 5 homebound residents this week.
 - Next week, we will return to a local shelter providing services to people who are unhoused to offer Johnson & Johnson vaccine.
- Public Health continues to partner with city of Vancouver and Safeway to operate the Tower Mall vaccination site.
- With vaccine now readily available at local pharmacies and medical offices, we've decided to close the Tower Mall site at the end of the month.
 - Tuesday, June 29 will be the last day of operations.
 - We will continue to offer first and second doses of Pfizer through the last day of operations.
 - 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.



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.

