

COVID-19 update



COVID-19 activity

- Case numbers are increasing nationally and in the state of Washington.
- In Clark County, case numbers are increasing significantly.
 - In the last week, we've averaged about 48 cases per day.
 - That's up from 34 cases per day one week ago, and 18 cases per day two weeks ago.
- Clark County's COVID-19 activity rate is now increasing, after decreasing since early May.
 - Rate this week is 74.5 cases per 100,000 people over 14 days, up from 50.1 last week.
 - Based on preliminary case numbers from the last few days, the rate is expected to be above 100 cases per 100,000 next week.
- Clark County case rates are increasing across most age groups.
 - Highest increase is among young adults 20-39 years old.
 - Rates are not currently increasing among those 0-9 and 60-69 years old.

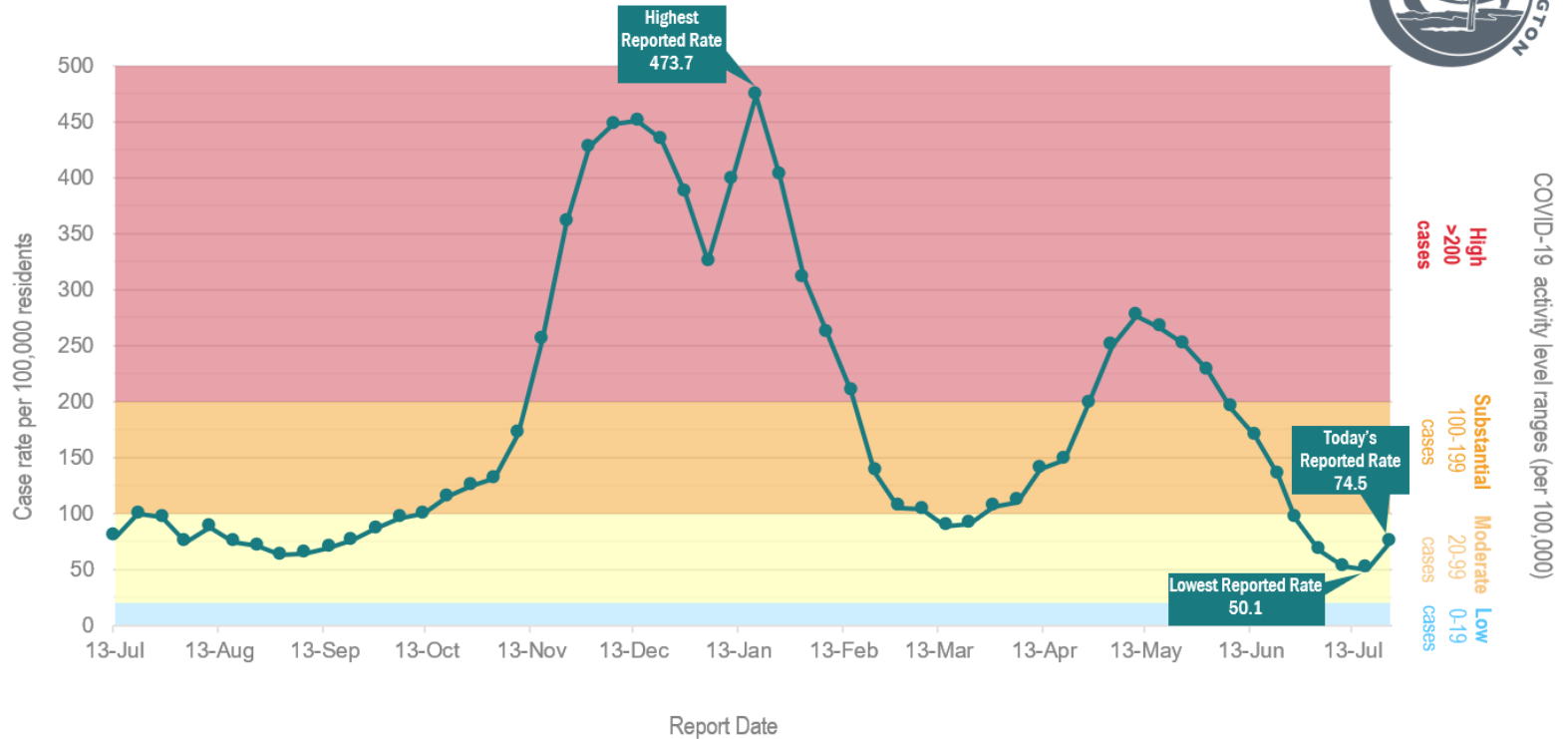


COVID-19 activity



COVID-19 ACTIVITY LEVEL

Clark County COVID-19 **case rate per 100,000 residents** for 14-day rolling period*



*The 14-day period starts six days prior to the report date to account for the lag in reporting. Last updated July 24, 2021.

**Starting April 12, 2021, case rate includes probable cases (antigen positive) in addition to confirmed cases (PCR positive) to align with WA State Dept. of Health.



COVID-19 activity

- New hospital admissions are increasing in Clark County and statewide.
 - Current rate statewide is 3.8 cases per 100,000 over 7 days.
 - Current rate in Clark County is 2.8 cases per 100,000 over 7 days.
- Hospital admission data from the state shows unvaccinated people are being hospitalized at significantly higher rates than vaccinated people. Hospitalization rate is:
 - **20 times higher** in unvaccinated people 45-64 years old than vaccinated people of the same ages
 - **9 times higher** in unvaccinated people 65 and older than vaccinated people of the same ages



COVID-19 hospitalizations

- Public Health partnered with Cowlitz County Health and Human Services to analyze regional COVID-19 hospitalizations.
 - Analysis included residents in Clark, Cowlitz, Lewis, Pacific, Skamania and Wahkiakum counties who were hospitalized for COVID-19 from March 22 to June 27.
- The analysis shows that COVID-19 vaccination is significantly reducing the risk of severe illness leading to hospitalization.
 - Even those partially vaccinated are receiving protection from the vaccine.
- For residents 65 years and older, the risk of being hospitalized for COVID-19 was:
 - **reduced by 90%** for those fully vaccinated.
 - **reduced by 75%** for those partially vaccinated.



COVID-19 hospitalizations

- The analysis also examined vaccination status of residents 45 to 64 years old who were hospitalized for COVID-19.
 - Out of the 61,620 residents in that age group who were fully vaccinated, **fewer than 10** were hospitalized for COVID-19.
 - The number is too small to calculate a statistically stable risk estimate.
- The hospitalization data did show that **91%** of hospitalized residents ages 45 to 64 years old **were unvaccinated**.
 - For comparison, 49% of the population in that age group were unvaccinated in our region.



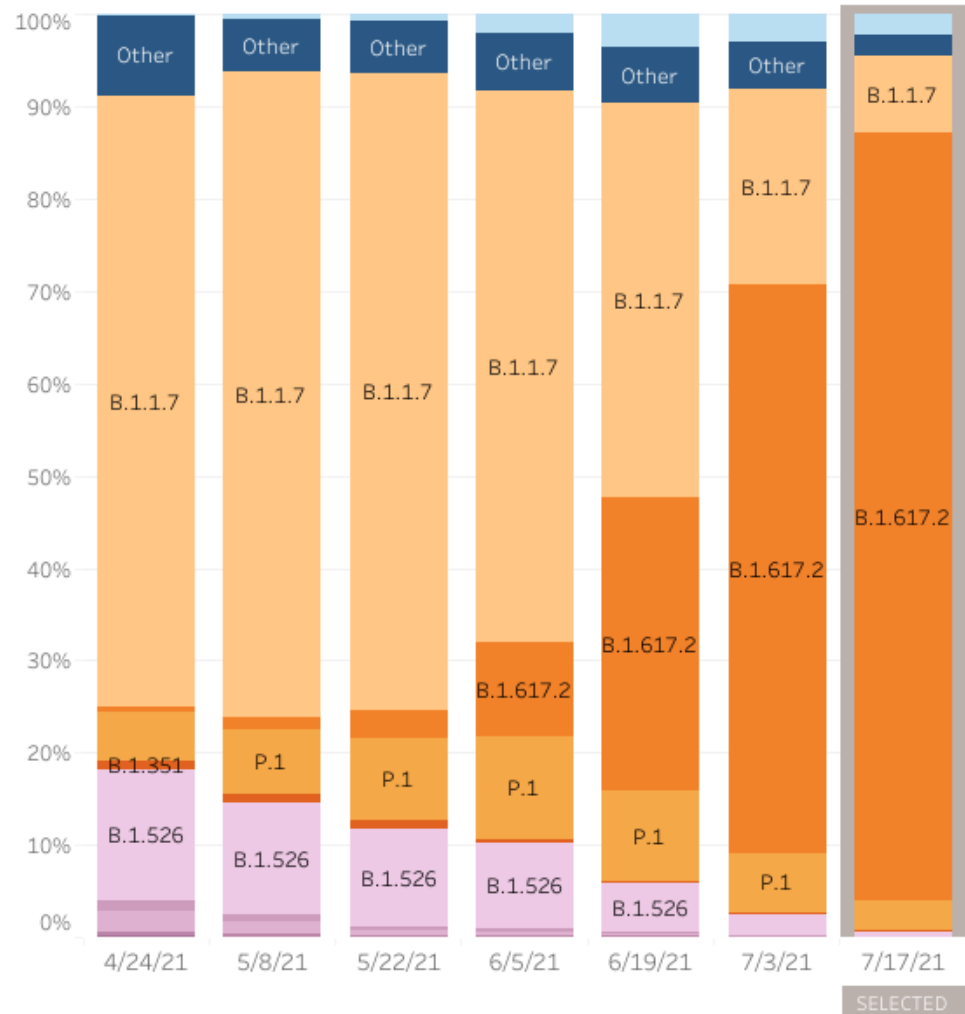
SARS-CoV-2 variants

- Variants of concern continue to pose additional risks for outbreaks and impacts to the health system, especially in places where vaccination rates are lower.
- B.1.617.2/delta has been linked to resurgences of COVID-19 cases in other parts of the world and in the US.
 - Increased transmissibility – more than two times as transmissible as earlier strains.
 - Preliminary data suggests some antibody treatments may be less effective and vaccine effectiveness may be lower.
- So far COVID-19 vaccines are providing protection against severe illness leading to hospitalization.
- Prevalence of the delta variant has quickly increased in the US and in Washington state.
 - So far 3 delta variant cases have been identified in Clark County.



US variant prevalence

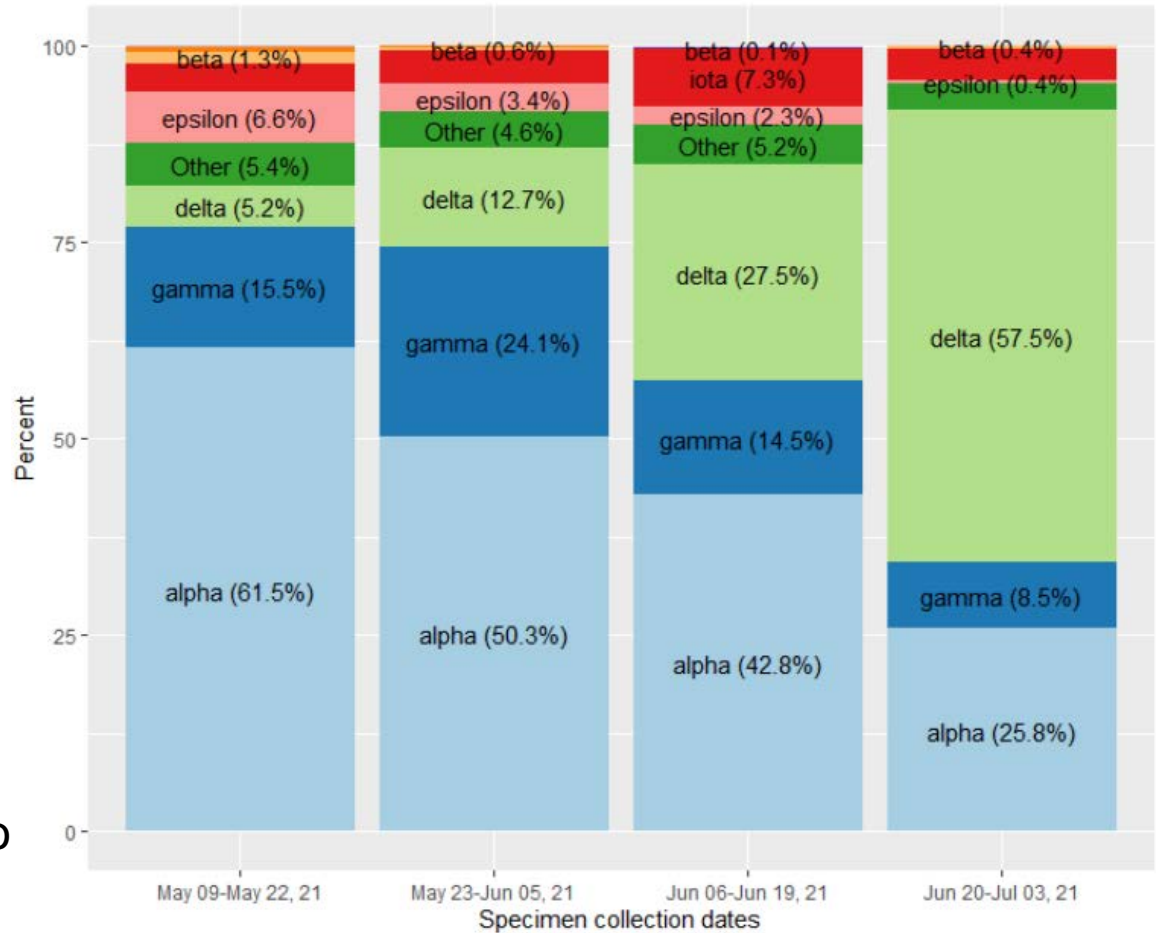
- As of July 17, CDC estimates the delta variant accounts for nearly 83% of COVID-19 cases in the US.
- Two weeks earlier, 62% of cases were attributed to the delta variant
- One month ago 32% of cases were attributed to the delta variant.



Collection date, two weeks ending

Washington variant prevalence

- In Washington, as of July 3, the delta variant accounts for about 58% of sequenced cases.
- That's up from 28% the prior two-week period and 13% one month earlier.
- New model-based projections estimate that 92% of cases may be attributable to the delta variant, as of July 19.



CDC guidance

- CDC updated its guidance on face coverings on Tuesday as more is learned about the highly infectious delta variant driving increases in virus activity across the country.
- The COVID-19 vaccines continue to be highly effective at preventing severe illness that can lead to hospitalization and death, even among those infected with the delta variant.
- A small proportion of people who are fully vaccinated may still get COVID-19, but infections in fully vaccinated people tend to be mild.
- Most COVID-19 cases continue to be among people who are unvaccinated.
- Some people who are fully vaccinated and get infected with the delta variant may be able to spread the virus to others.



CDC guidance

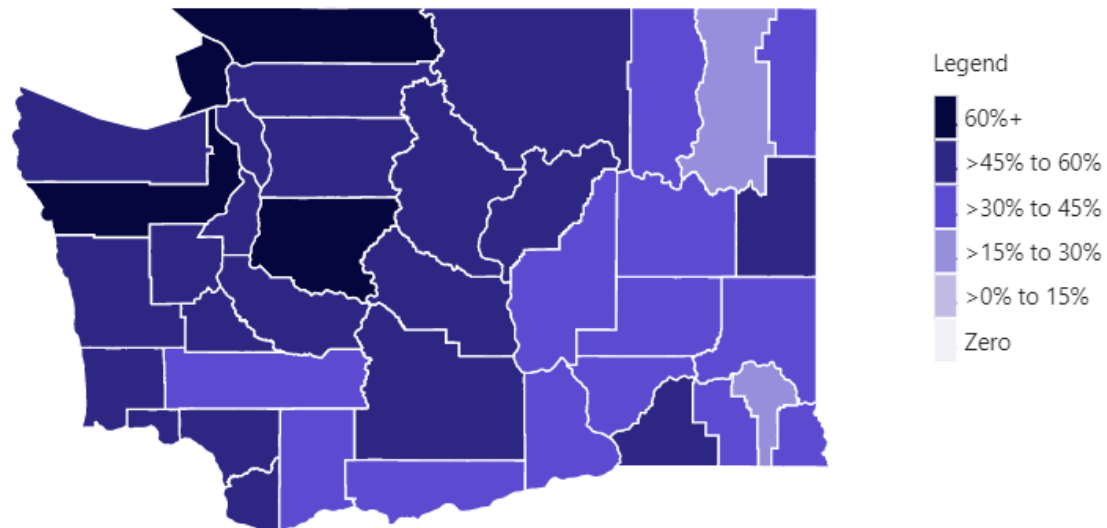
- Given the current virus activity in Clark County, Public Health is recommending face coverings for everyone in indoor settings, in alignment with CDC guidance.
 - In Clark County, virus activity is currently categorized as substantial.
- The Washington State Department of Health is reviewing the CDC guidance and may make updates to state guidance on face coverings.
- The CDC is also recommending everyone wear masks in K-12 schools, regardless of vaccination status and community virus activity.
 - The state Department of Health establishes the guidance for schools in our state.
 - Public Health is awaiting the updated schools guidance from the state.



COVID-19 vaccine administered

- 63% of Clark County residents 16+ years have received at least one dose
 - 69% statewide
- 57% of Clark County residents 16+ years have completed vaccination
 - 63% statewide
- DOH dashboard does not include vaccine data from Veterans Affairs or Department of Defense.
 - VA and DoD send only statewide totals; not available at county-level.

TOTAL POPULATION INITIATING VACCINATION (RECEIVING AT LEAST 1 DOSE)



Public Health vaccination efforts

- COVID-19 vaccination incident management team (IMT) was a collaboration between Clark, Cowlitz and Skamania counties.
 - Response began with a Type 1 IMT arriving on Jan. 19.
 - Transitioned to a team staff largely by Public Health and contracted employees in late February.
 - IMT demobilized on June 30.

61,312

total doses administered



49,273 administered in Clark County

10,977 administered in Cowlitz County

2,148 administered in Skamania County*

**Skamania County data through March 21*

Locations included:

- Tower Mall and Cowlitz County Event Center
- Adult family homes
- Long-term care facilities
- Housing authority facilities
- Food processing facilities
- Schools
- Encampments and shelters
- Homebound residents



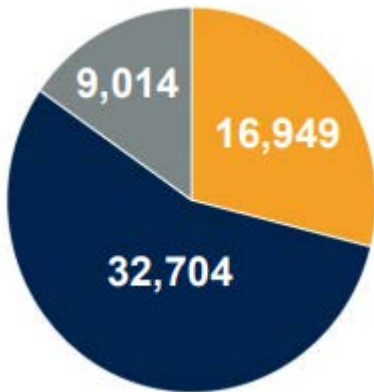
Public Health vaccination efforts

- Public Health community vaccination clinics were open to anyone eligible to be vaccinated.
 - Minors 12-15 years old had to be accompanied by parent/guardian.
- At community vaccination clinics, Public Health administered:
 - 2,113 doses of Pfizer (all ages)
 - 269 doses to minors 16-17 years old
 - 21 minors 16-17 years old vaccinated under Mature Minor Doctrine
- Follow-up with adolescents and parents of adolescents vaccinated under Mature Minor Doctrine found:
 - 16 minors had parental consent
 - 5 minors/parents could not be reached



Public Health vaccination efforts

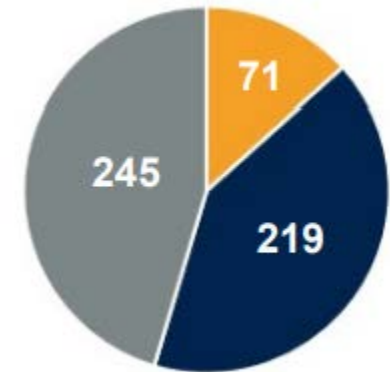
- Response utilized Public Health staff, contracted and temporary employees, Medical Reserve Corps and Community Emergency Response Team.
- 535 staff and volunteers worked 58,667 hours on the response.
 - Doesn't include city of Vancouver, Safeway or Cowlitz County staff working at Tower Mall and Cowlitz County Event Center sites.



Hours worked

Medical Reserve Corps
Community Emergency
Response Team

**Clark County Public Health
contracted and temporary
employees**



Staff and
volunteers



Extreme heat



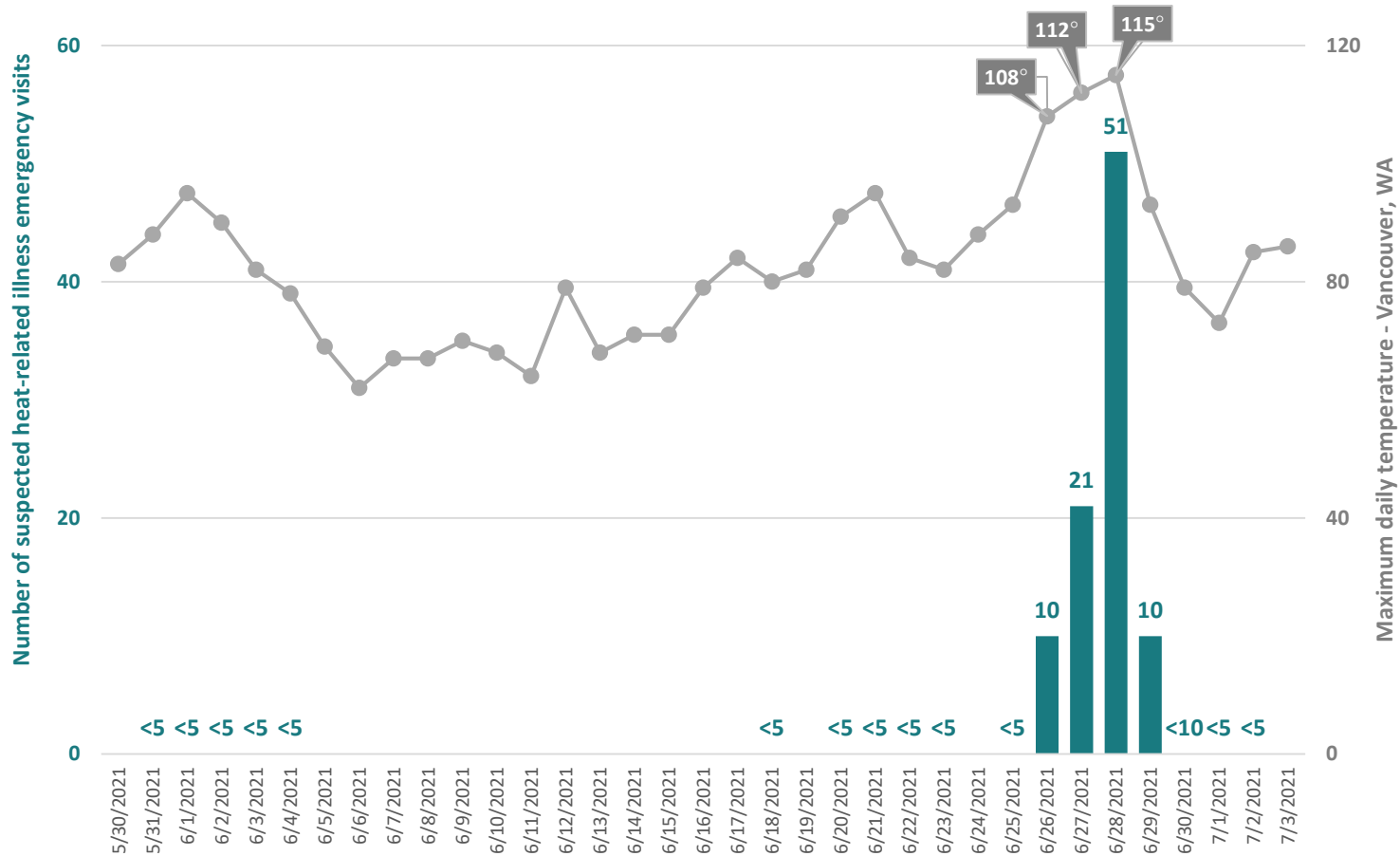
Extreme heat

- Stretch of extreme heat in late June broke record high temperatures on several consecutive days.
- Public Health worked closely with CRESA, Council for the Homeless, Fort Vancouver Regional Libraries, cities and other partners to identify and promote cooling centers across the county.
- Public Health shared cooling center information and other heat safety messages in English, Spanish and Russian on social media.
- Hospital emergency departments had nearly 100 visits for suspected heat-related illness.
 - Visits for suspected heat-related illness accounted for 11% of all emergency visits on Sunday, June 28.
- The Medical Examiner's Office continues to investigate deaths that may be related to excessive heat.



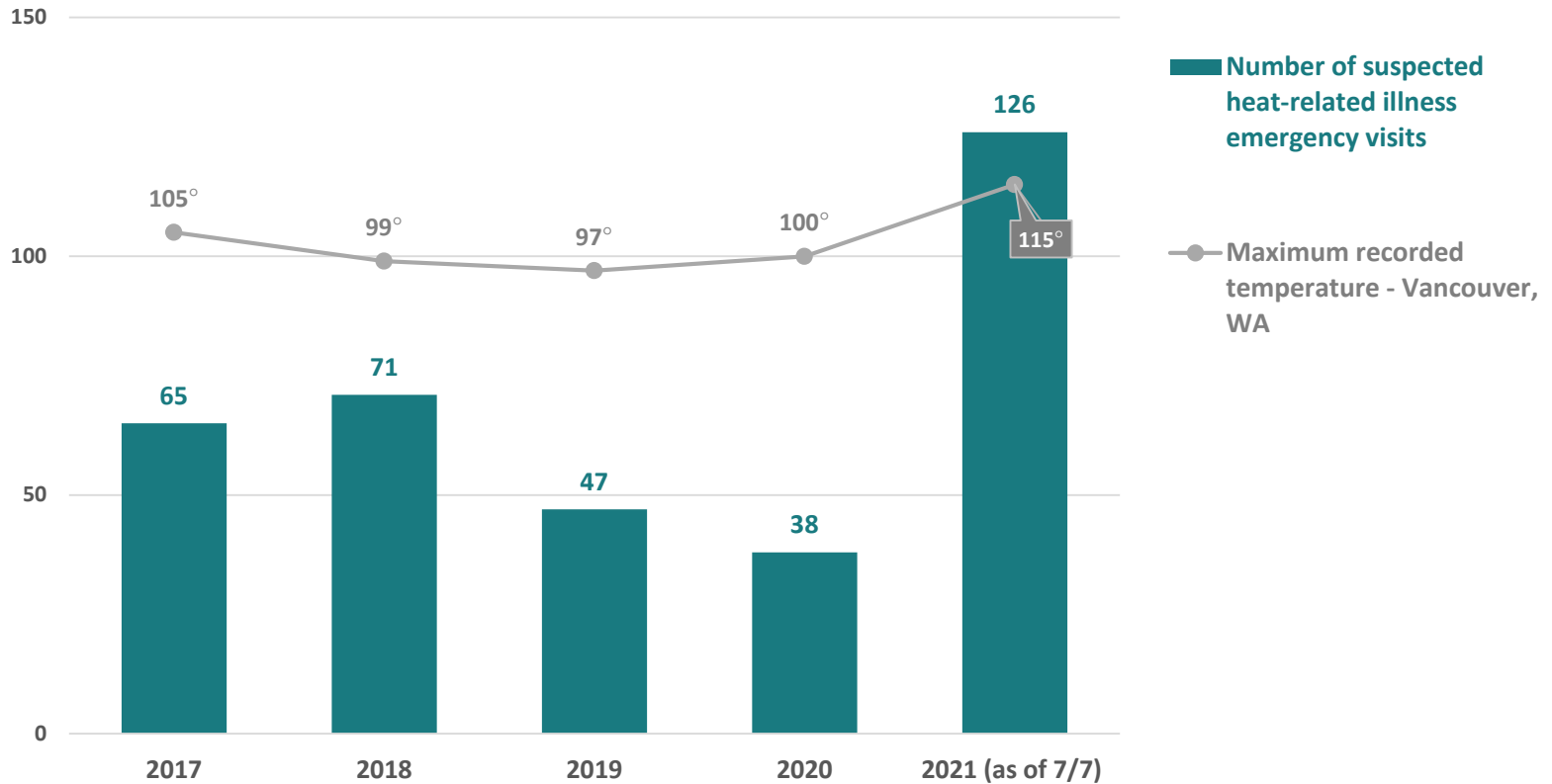
Emergency visits for heat-related illness

Number of emergency visits for suspected heat-related illness in Clark County, WA, hospitals overlaid with the maximum daily temperature in Vancouver, WA, from May 30, 2021, to July 3, 2021



Emergency visits for heat-related illness

Number of emergency visits for suspected heat-related illness per year in Clark County, WA, hospitals overlaid with the maximum recorded temperature per year in Vancouver, WA



Heat-related deaths

- Medical Examiner's Office estimates about 5-10 deaths in Clark County may be related to excessive heat.
- Medical Examiner's Office follows guidelines and criteria established by the National Association of Medical Examiners when certifying heat-related deaths, both as a direct cause and as a contributory cause.
- When investigating heat-related deaths, the Medical Examiner's Office considers:
 - the circumstances leading up to a person's death
 - their medical and social history
 - an examination of the body
 - various laboratory studies, such as toxicology
- Medical Examiner's Office has so far confirmed 3 heat-related deaths.
 - It make take weeks or even months to complete all of the death investigations.

