

COVID-19 update

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PHAC meeting

Aug. 10, 2021



COVID-19 activity

- Cases numbers are surging in the state and hospitalizations are increasing.
- Early last week, DOH reported an average of 1,500 new cases per day over four days.
- Statewide hospital occupancy is at the highest levels to date in 2021.
 - Last Tuesday, more than 600 people were hospitalized with COVID-19, an increase of more than 20% from the week before.
- Around the end of June, estimates of statewide transmission increased sharply.
 - Estimated reproductive number on July 2 was 1.46.
 - A reproductive number above one means the virus is spreading faster.



COVID-19 activity

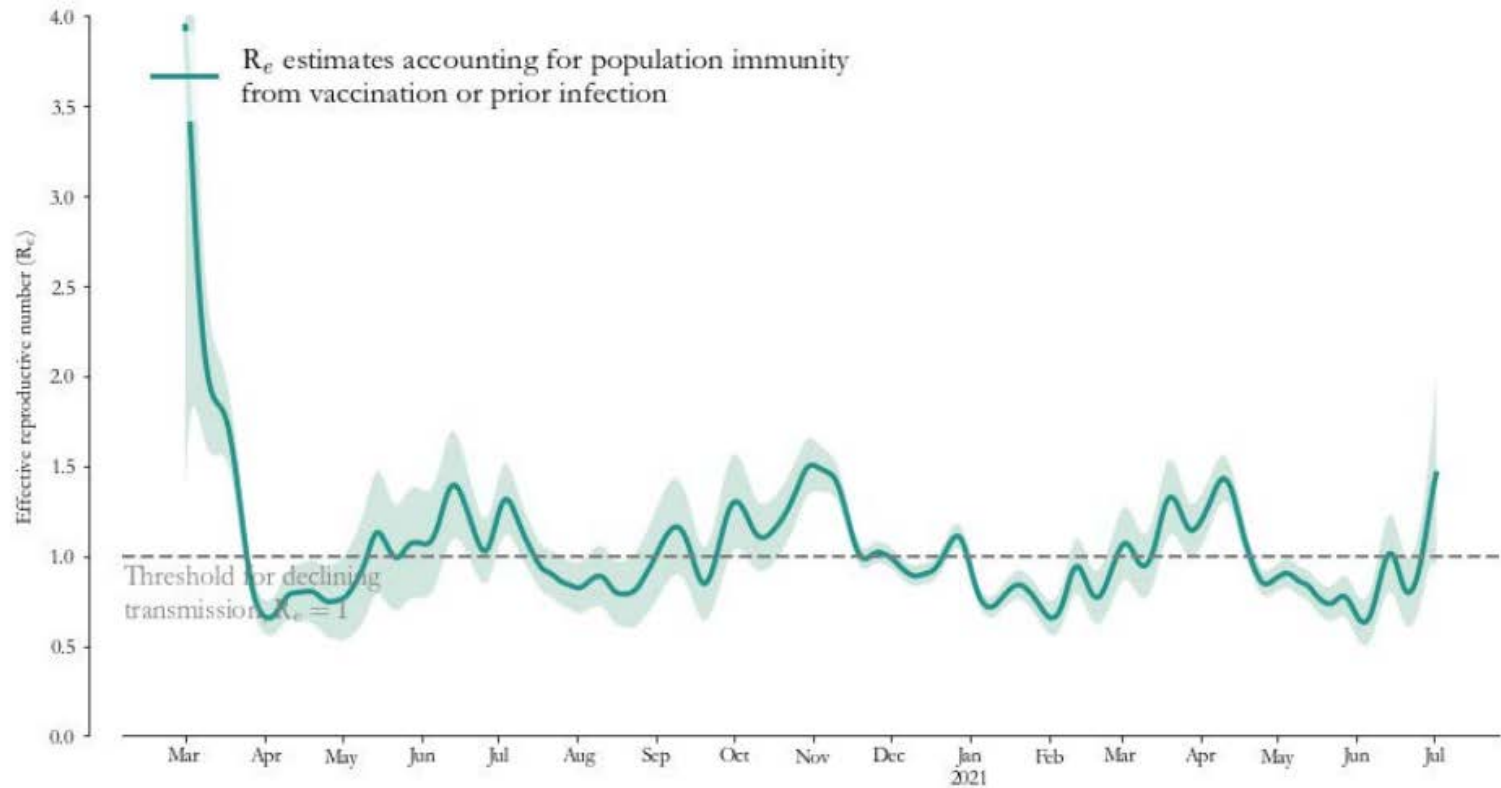


Figure 1: R_e estimates for Washington state. The green line and green-shaded region depict the “total” R_e , which accounts for behavior, variants, and population immunity.



COVID-19 activity

- In Clark County, case numbers are increasing significantly.
 - Last week, we averaged about 86 cases per day.
 - About a month ago, we were averaging 20 new cases per day.
- Clark County's COVID-19 activity rate is back above 100 cases per 100,000.
 - Rate last week was 120.8 cases per 100k.
 - Based on preliminary case numbers, rate is expected to be higher this week.
- COVID-19 hospitalizations are up.
 - As of Thursday, 12.6% of hospital beds were occupied by COVID-19 cases and PUIs
 - 69 cases, 4 PUIs
 - New hospital admissions per 100,000 people over 7 days (July 29-Aug 4): 6.2

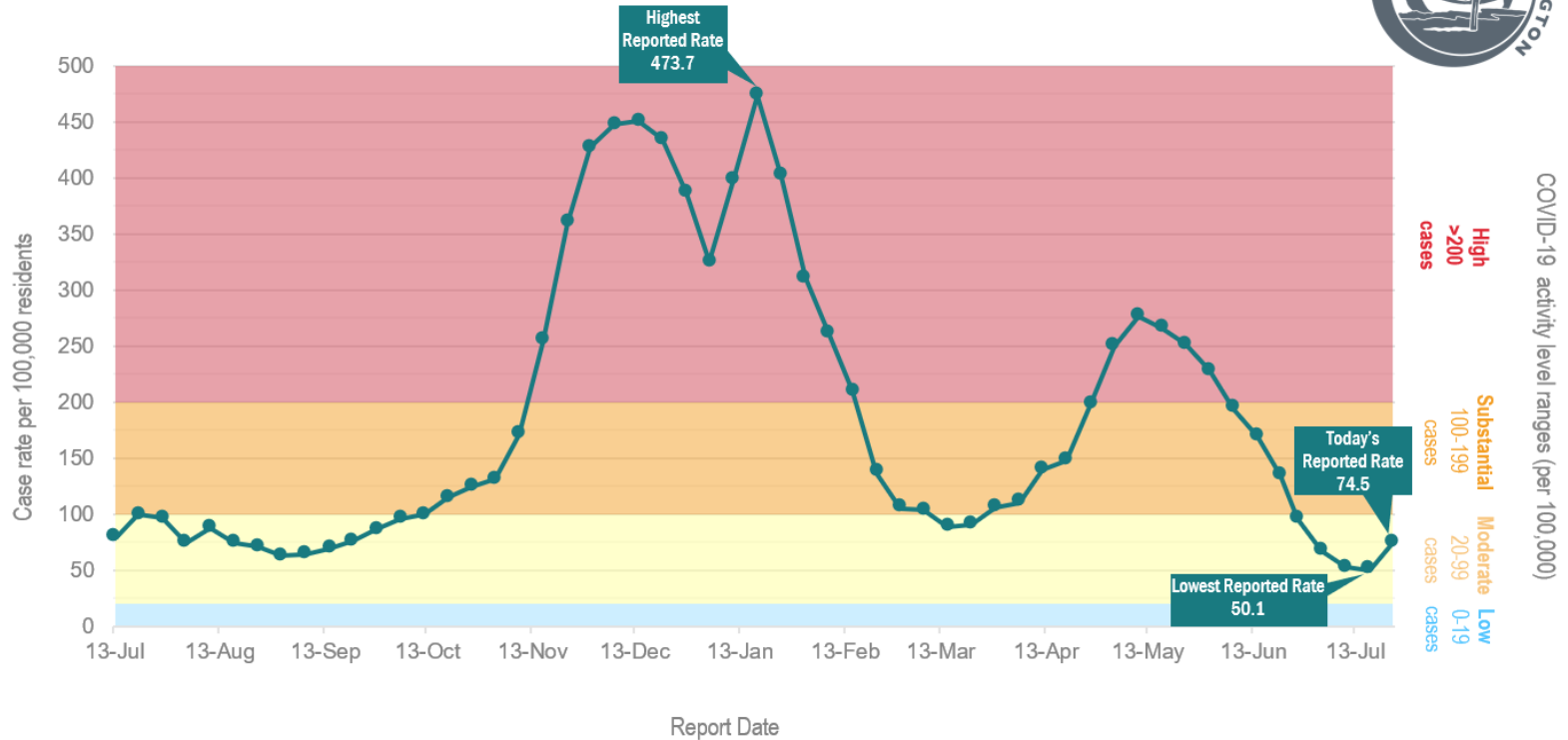


COVID-19 activity



COVID-19 ACTIVITY LEVEL

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



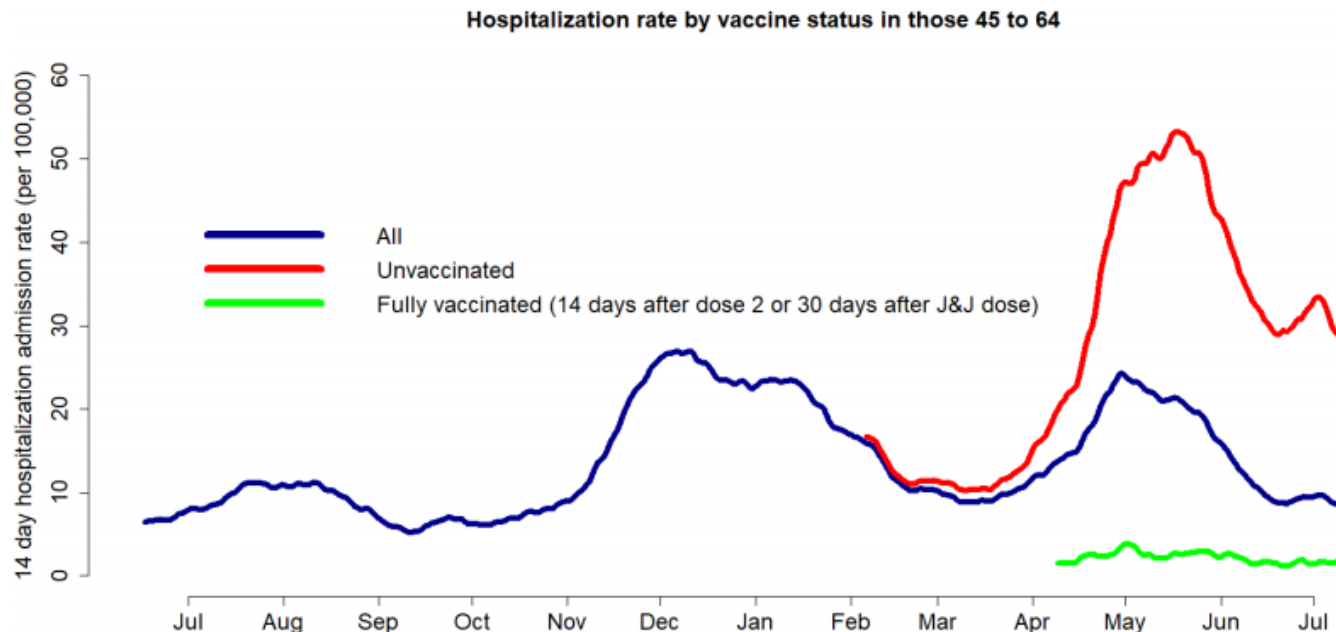
*The 14-day period starts six days prior to the report date to account for the lag in reporting. Last updated July 24, 2021.

**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 hospitalizations

- 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.



COVID-19 impact on unvaccinated

- A [new weekly report](#) from DOH demonstrates the impact of COVID-19 on people who are unvaccinated.
- From Feb. 1 through July 24, **more than 94%** of COVID-19 cases, deaths and hospitalizations in people 12 years and older were among those not fully vaccinated.
 - **96.5% of cases** were in those not fully vaccinated.
 - **96% of hospitalizations** among COVID-19 cases were in those not fully vaccinated.
 - **94.6% of deaths** related to COVID-19 were in those not fully vaccinated.



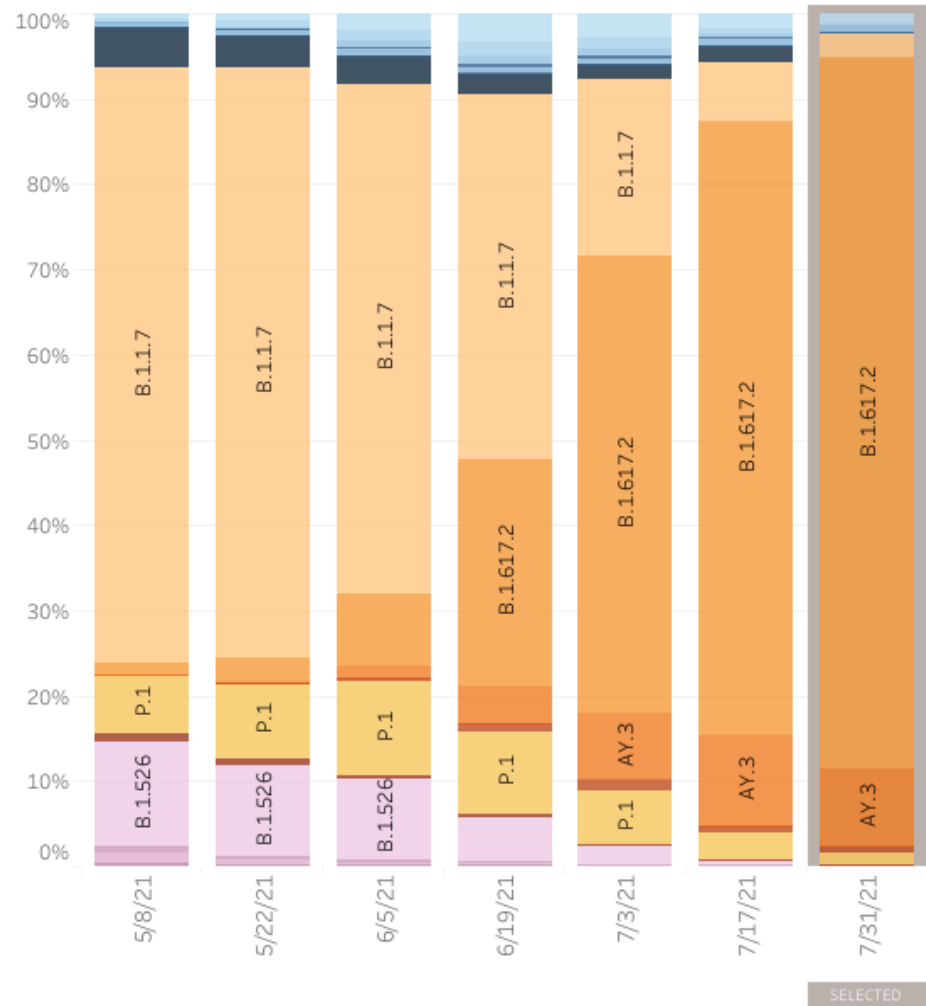
SARS-CoV-2 variants

- The delta variant (B.1.617.2) continues to drive up COVID-19 case numbers in the US and in Washington state.
 - Increased transmissibility – more than two times as transmissible as earlier strains.
 - Likely causes more severe illness than alpha (UK) or ancestral strains.
 - Preliminary data suggests some antibody treatments may be less effective and vaccine effectiveness may be lower.
- Data from CDC shows delta variant is as transmissible as chicken pox.
 - More transmissible than MERS and SARS, ebola, common cold, seasonal flu and 1918 (“Spanish”) flu, and smallpox.
- Prevalence of the delta variant continues to increase in the US and in Washington state.
- So far 10 delta variant cases have been identified in Clark County.
 - Not all cases are sequenced.



US variant prevalence

- As of July 31, CDC estimates the delta variant accounts for nearly 83% of COVID-19 cases in the US.
 - AY.3 accounts for another 9%
- Two weeks earlier, 72% of cases were attributed to the delta variant and 10% were attributed to AY.3.
- One month ago 54% of cases were attributed to the delta variant.

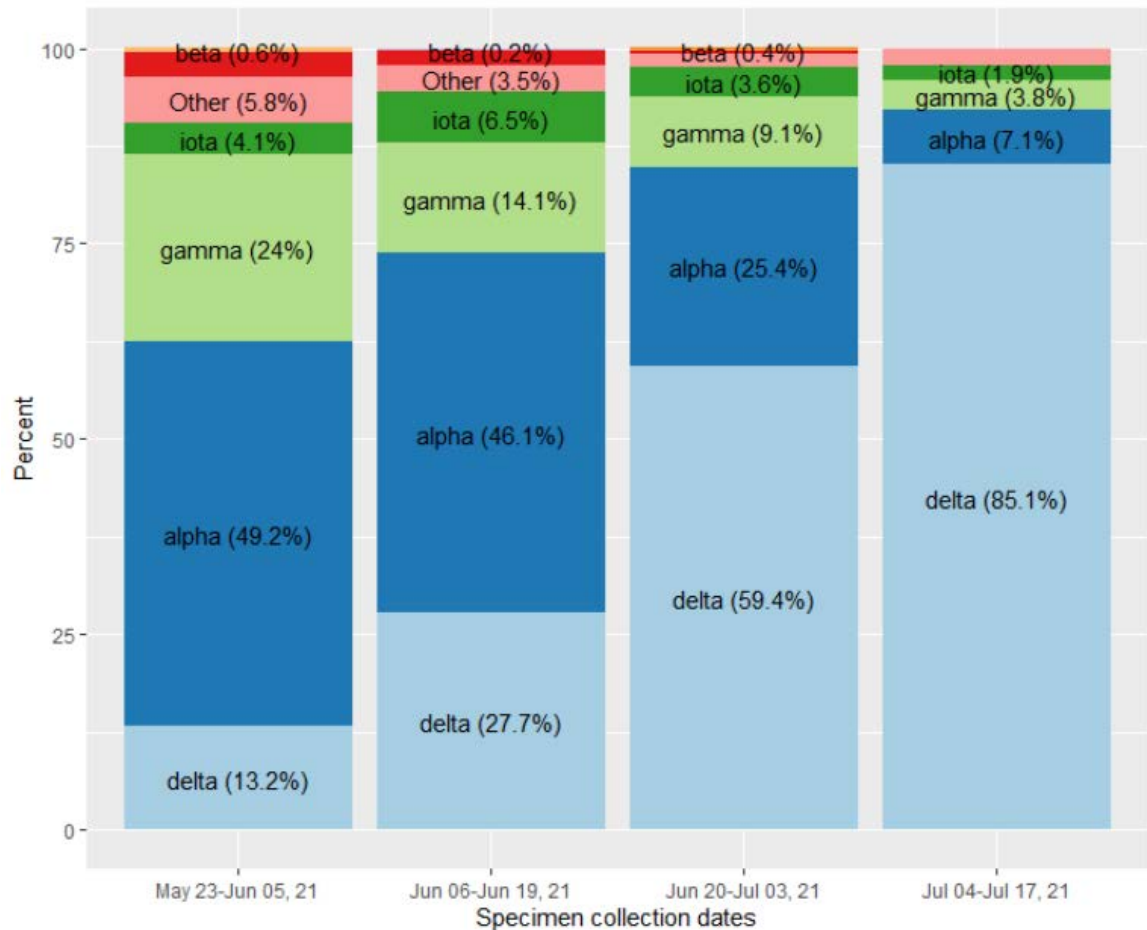


Collection date, two weeks ending

SELECTED

Washington variant prevalence

- In Washington, as of July 17, the delta variant accounts for about 85% of sequenced cases (includes AY.3).
- That's up from 60% the prior two-week period and 28% one month earlier.
- State model-based projections estimate that 92% of cases may be attributable to the delta variant, as of July 19.



Delta variant in Washington

- Demographics and clinical characteristics of delta variant cases, among sequenced cases:

Characteristic	Percent 2021 positive cases	Percent 2021 sequenced cases	Percent B.1.617.2 (delta)
Cases who were hospitalized	5.8%	3.2%	3.5%
Cases who died from COVID	0.9%	0.6%	0.3%
Cases age 0-19	21.3%	25.4%	25.9%
Cases age 20-34	30.3%	31.7%	32.5%
Cases age 35-49	21.9%	22.5%	21.6%
Cases age 50-64	15.7%	12.8%	11.4%
Cases age 65-79	6.5%	4.3%	5.3%
Cases age 80+	2.1%	1.3%	1%
Cases Unknown age	2.5%	2%	2.3%



CDC guidance

- CDC recently updated its guidance on face coverings after reviewing new data on the delta variant.
- 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.
 - Vaccines may be less effective at preventing infection or transmission.
- 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

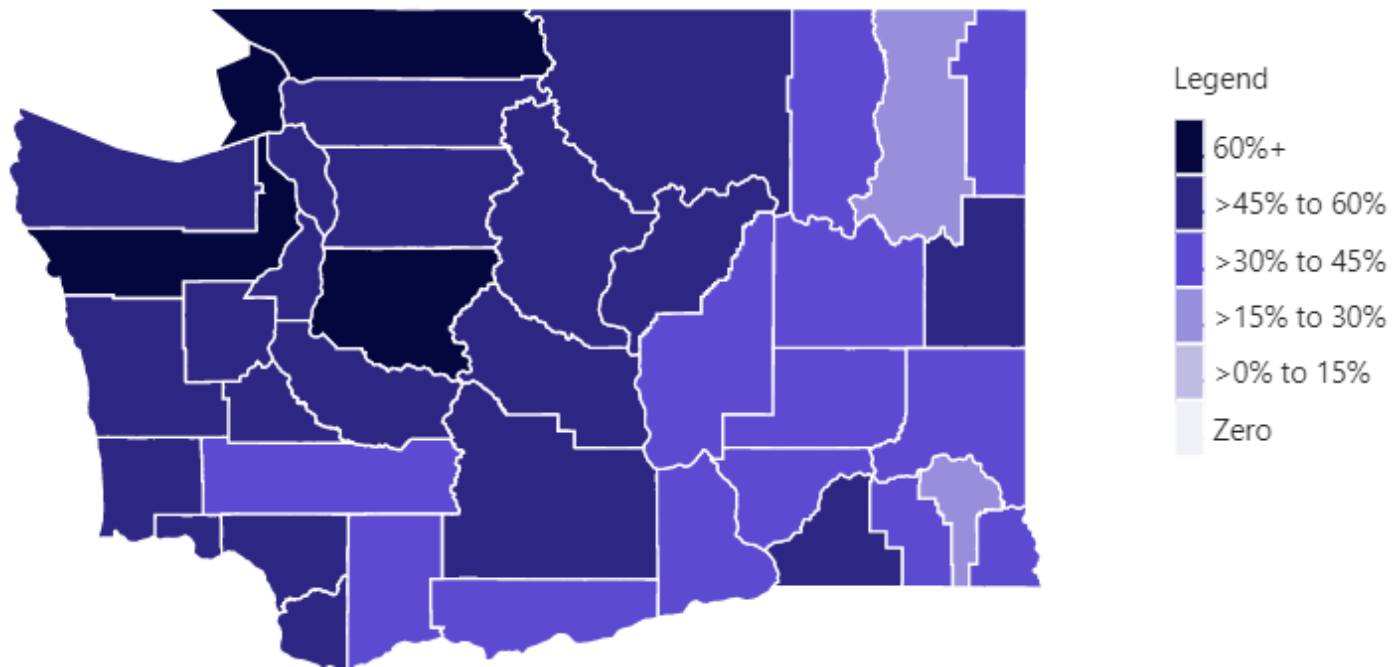
- Given the current virus activity in Clark County, Public Health is recommending face coverings for everyone in indoor settings.
 - This is in alignment with CDC and Washington Department of Health recommendations.
 - In Clark County, virus activity is currently categorized as high.
- DOH announced updated guidance for schools that requires all students and staff to wear face coverings in K-12 schools this fall.
 - This is in alignment with CDC and American Academy of Pediatrics recommendations.
 - This is a legal requirement from the state. Public Health and local school districts do not have the ability to require something less restrictive.



COVID-19 vaccine administered

- 53% of Clark County residents have at least one dose (58% statewide)
 - 62% of Clark County residents 12+ years old
- 48% of Clark County residents completed vaccination (53% statewide)
 - 56% of Clark County residents 12+ years old

TOTAL POPULATION INITIATING VACCINATION (RECEIVING AT LEAST 1 DOSE)



Vaccine mandates

- On Monday, Gov. Inslee announced new COVID-19 vaccine requirements for state employees and workers in private health care a long-term care facilities.
- COVID-19 vaccination is now a condition of employment.
 - Workers have until Oct. 18 to get fully vaccinated, which means they need to have their last dose by Oct. 4.
- Some exemptions will be considered, but only those deemed to be “legitimate medical reasons or sincerely held religious reasons.”
 - No personal or philosophical exemptions are available.
 - No test-out option for employees.
- State employees under separately elected officials are not included.
 - Gov. Inslee encouraged other state elected officials, local governments and organizations in the private sector to require vaccinations.
 - King County and city of Seattle also announced vaccine mandates.



Vaccine mandates

- Washington state joins a growing list of organizations that have announced vaccination mandates for employees and/or customers.
- Government employers requiring vaccination or masking and regular testing.
 - Federal employees, New York City, California
- Medical providers requiring vaccinations for health care workers.
 - Kaiser, PeaceHealth, Legacy and Vancouver Clinic
 - Department of Veterans Affairs
 - Washington State Medical Association, American Hospital Association issued statements supporting requirements for health care workers
- Private businesses requiring employees and/or customers to be vaccinated.
 - Google, Facebook, Lyft, Uber requiring vaccination for employees returning to offices
 - 60+ restaurants and bars in Seattle; Portland restaurants and bars beginning to require vaccination



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*

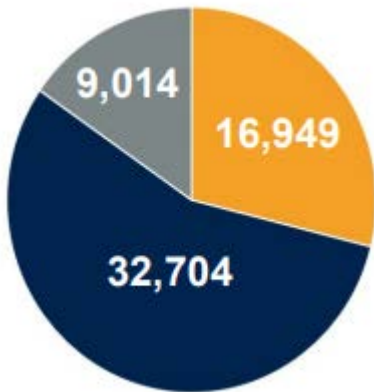
Locations included:

- 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

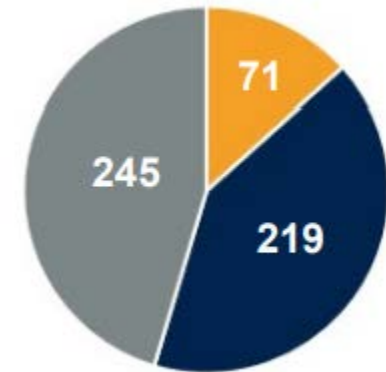
- Response utilized Public Health staff, contracted and temporary employees, Medical Reserve Corps and Community Emergency Response Team.
- 535 staff and volunteers worked 58,667 hours on the response.
 - Doesn't include city of Vancouver, Safeway or Cowlitz County staff working at Tower Mall and Cowlitz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



Hours worked

Medical Reserve Corps
Community Emergency
Response Team

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



Staff and
volunteers

