

COVID-19 update

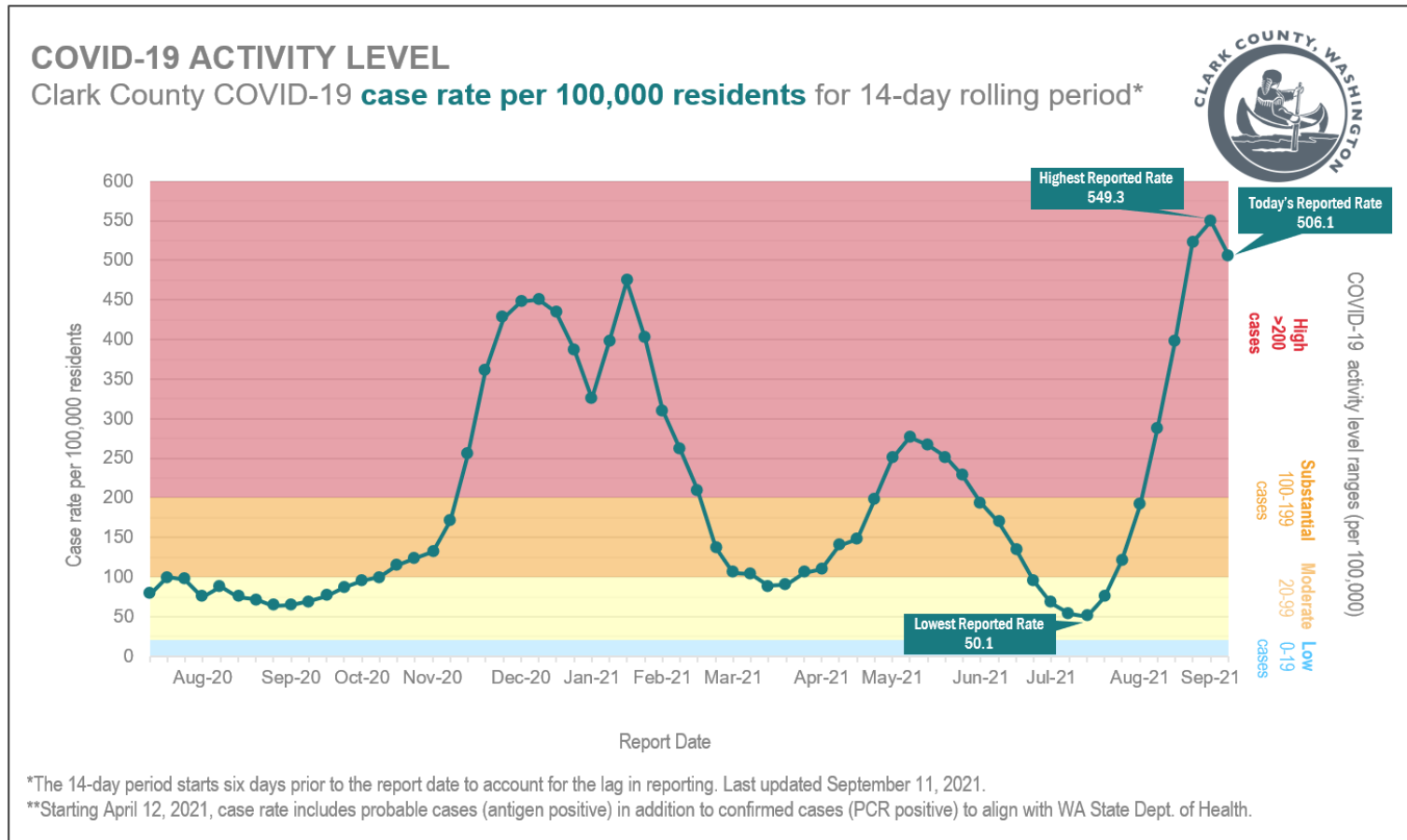
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Sept. 22, 2021



COVID-19 activity

- COVID-19 case rates across the state and in Clark County appear to be plateauing, but they're doing so at a very high level.



Hospital capacity update

- COVID-19 hospitalizations in Clark County continue to rise.
 - Hospital beds and ICU beds are full, reporting 99% and 98% occupancy last week.
 - And about 28% of hospital beds and 60% of ICU beds were occupied by COVID-19 cases.
- PeaceHealth Southwest Medical Center has remained at 85-95% capacity for the last several weeks.
 - The hospital often has more than 300 people hospitalized.
 - On Tuesday, 86 people were in the hospital with COVID-19.
 - The number of hospitalized COVID-19 patients has been above 80 for the last several days.
 - COVID-19 patients continue to account for about 25% of hospital's patients.
- PeaceHealth Southwest has remained adequately staffed, even with consistently high occupancy.
 - The hospital opened an additional in-patient unit two weeks ago to increase hospital capacity (about 30 beds).



Hospital capacity update

- Legacy Salmon Creek Medical Center is seeing a high number of critical care cases, mostly unvaccinated COVID-19 cases.
 - The 16-bed ICU unit was full on Tuesday – all unvaccinated COVID-19 patients.
 - The 16-bed step-down unit being used for overflow was also full – 90% COVID-19 patients.
 - COVID-19 patients account for a little more than 25% of the hospital's total patients.

Vaccination requirement

- PeaceHealth's vaccination requirement went into effect Aug. 31
 - <5% staff attrition systemwide as a result of the requirement
 - 97% of staff at PeaceHealth Southwest are in compliance
- Legacy's vaccination requirement goes into effect Sept. 30
 - Nearly 90% of staff at Legacy Salmon Creek are currently vaccinated; hospital officials expect that to increase as the deadline nears.
 - Hospital officials continue to provide staff with information about vaccine safety and efficacy.

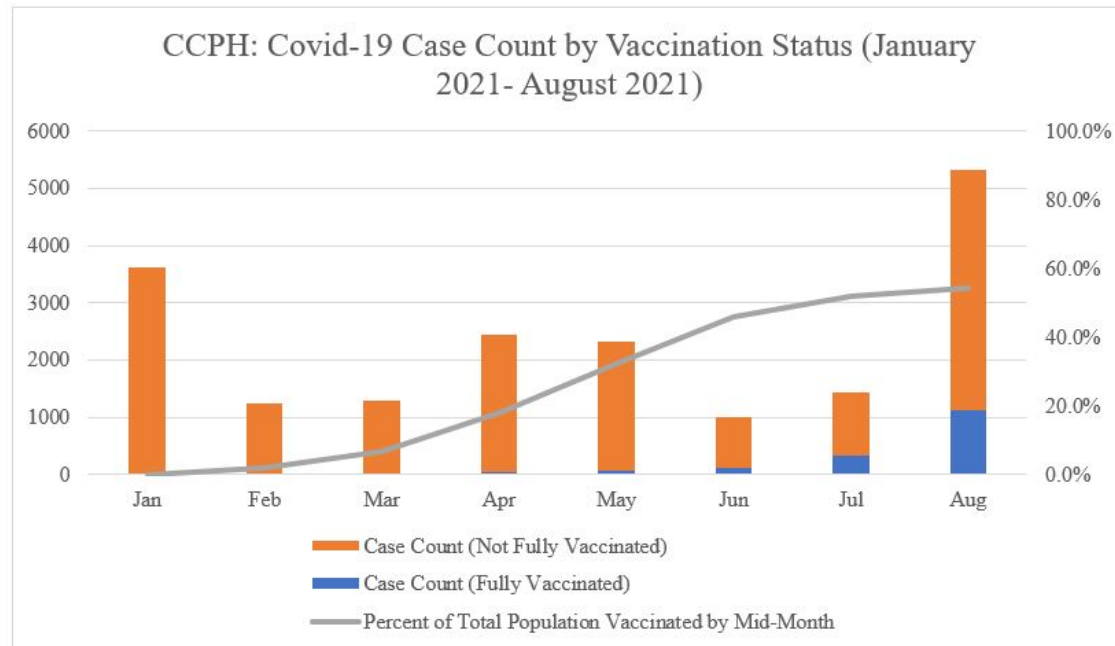
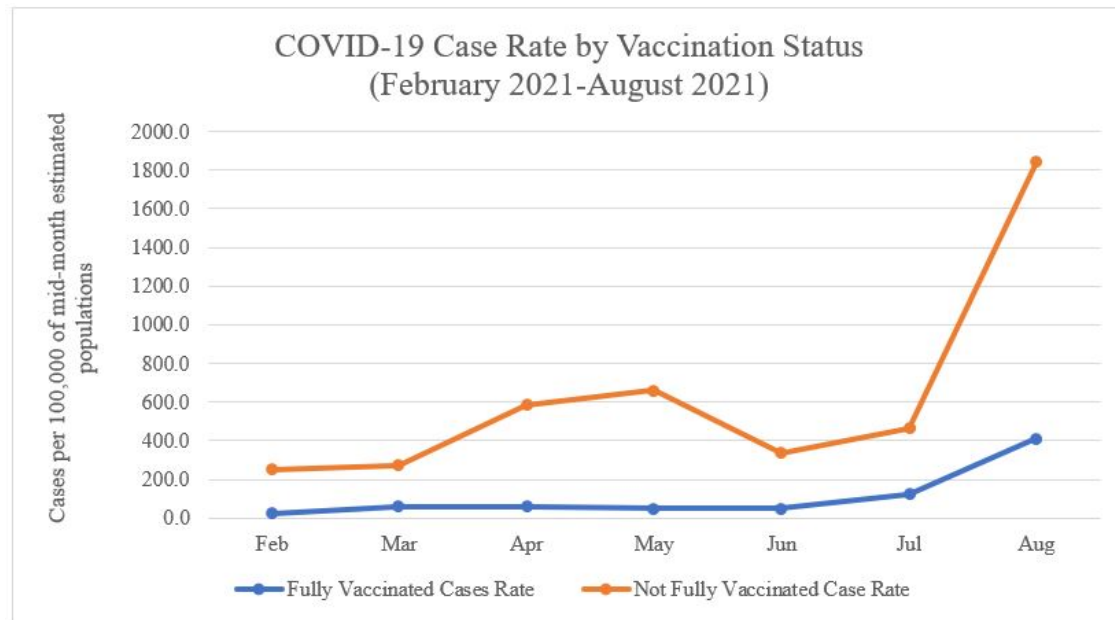


Clark County cases by vaccination status

- Public Health recently looked at Clark County case numbers and case rates by vaccination status.
- Data shows that most COVID-19 cases continue to be among those who are not fully vaccinated.
 - “Not fully vaccinated” includes people who are unvaccinated, those who have received only one dose of a two-dose series, and those who have completed their vaccination less than two weeks prior to becoming infected with COVID-19.
 - Our data team is currently working on method for breaking “not fully vaccinated” into two categories: “unvaccinated” and “partially vaccinated”
- Case rates are increasing for both groups, but rates are significantly higher among those who are not fully vaccinated and the increase among those not fully vaccinated is more dramatic.



- The number of breakthrough cases has been increasing.
- Increase is not unexpected, but the delta variant has led to more breakthrough cases than we expected to see with earlier strains.
- Our COVID-19 case numbers overall have also increased dramatically in the last two months and we now have more people who are fully vaccinated.

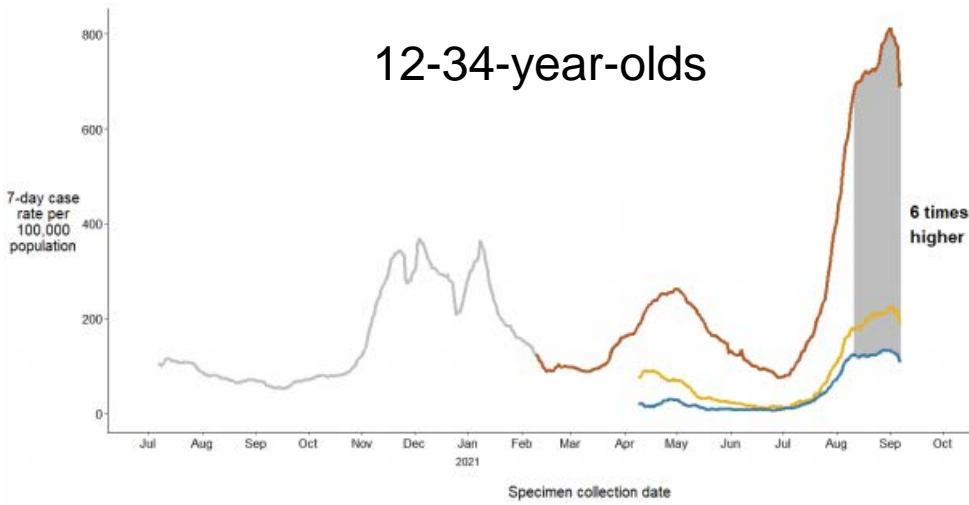


COVID-19 impact on unvaccinated

- DOH data continues to show those who are unvaccinated are at significantly higher risk of infection, hospitalization and death compared with those who are fully vaccinated.
- The most recent DOH report shows:
- Unvaccinated 12-34 year-olds in Washington are
 - **6 times more likely** to get COVID-19 and **30 times more likely** to be hospitalized with COVID-19 compared with fully vaccinated.
- Unvaccinated 35-64 year-olds are
 - **5 times more likely** to get COVID-19 and **21 times more likely** to be hospitalized with COVID-19 compared with fully vaccinated.
- Unvaccinated 65+ year-olds are
 - **4 times more likely** to get COVID-19,
 - **9 times more likely** to be hospitalized with COVID-19 and
 - **8 times more likely** to die of COVID-19 compared with fully vaccinated.

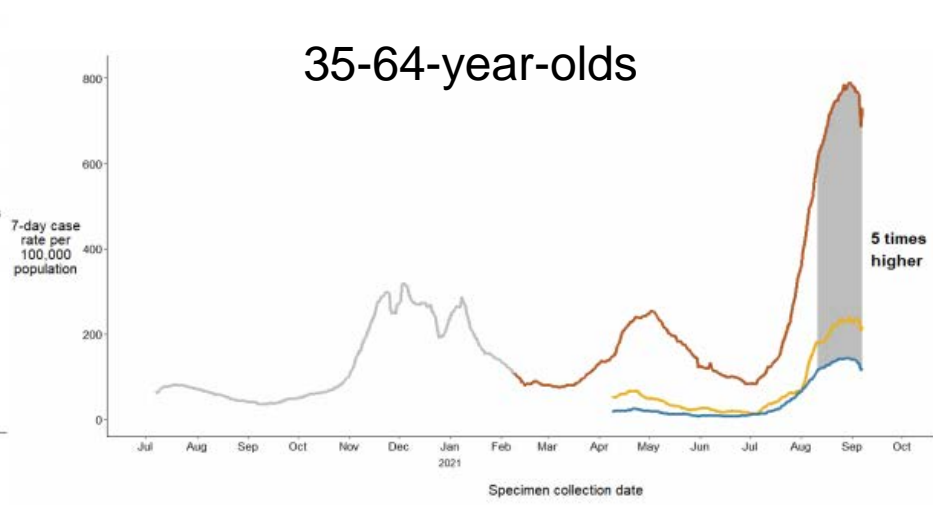


12-34-year-olds



— Total — Partially vaccinated — 28-day rate comparison
 — Unvaccinated — Fully vaccinated

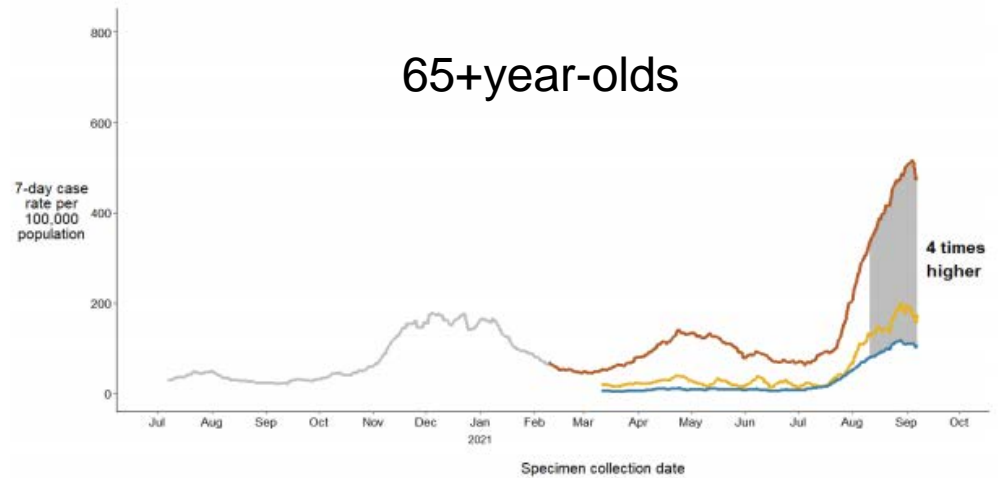
35-64-year-olds



— Total — Partially vaccinated — 28-day rate comparison
 — Unvaccinated — Fully vaccinated

Unvaccinated
 Partially vaccinated
 Fully vaccinated

65+year-olds



— Total — Partially vaccinated — 28-day rate comparison
 — Unvaccinated — Fully vaccinated



Natural immunity

- When people are infected with COVID-19, their body produces antibodies that can provide protection against reinfection.
- Current evidence suggests people who had COVID-19 are unlikely to get re-infected within 90 days. But we don't know how long that natural protection lasts and the length of protection can vary by person.
 - New variants may also affect how long naturally acquired antibodies provide protection.
- Getting vaccinated after COVID-19 infection is safe and helps the body to develop more antibodies to protect against reinfection.
- A recent study of people in Kentucky who previously had COVID-19 showed that people who were unvaccinated were **2.34 times more likely** to be re-infected with COVID-19 than those who got vaccinated after getting COVID-19 the first time.



Monoclonal antibodies

- FDA has issued emergency use authorizations for monoclonal antibody treatments.
- Monoclonal antibodies are synthetic antibodies given by injection or IV to stimulate immune response.
 - Used in people at risk of severe illness that could lead to hospitalization or death.
- Monoclonal antibodies should be administered as soon as possible and within 10 days of symptoms beginning.
 - Once someone is hospitalized or needs oxygen therapy they are no longer eligible.
- Data from one company manufacturing monoclonal antibodies (Regeneron) showed 19-26 people would need to be treated in order to prevent one COVID-19 related hospitalization.
- Cost of treatment is \$1,200-2,100 per infusion, with insurance covering all or most of the cost (possible co-pay).
 - COVID-19 vaccine costs about \$20, with insurance covering the cost.



Monoclonal antibodies

- Monoclonal antibody supplies are limited.
 - Supplies are being allocated to the state from the federal government. Providers can also try to procure supplies through regular supply chain methods.
- Currently, the amount being allocated to the state does not meet the demand of order requests from providers.
 - DOH is working on guidance for prioritization of use.
- DOH has created a [webpage](#) with locations offering the treatment.
- Some local medical providers are working to set up monoclonal antibody clinics, but the treatment is not widely available in Clark County.
 - Medical providers face challenges with staffing, due to increased demand on the health care system and efforts to continue vaccinations.
 - Treatment requires monitoring for one hour after administration.



COVID-19 vaccine

- Number of people getting vaccinated against COVID-19 continues to increase slowly.

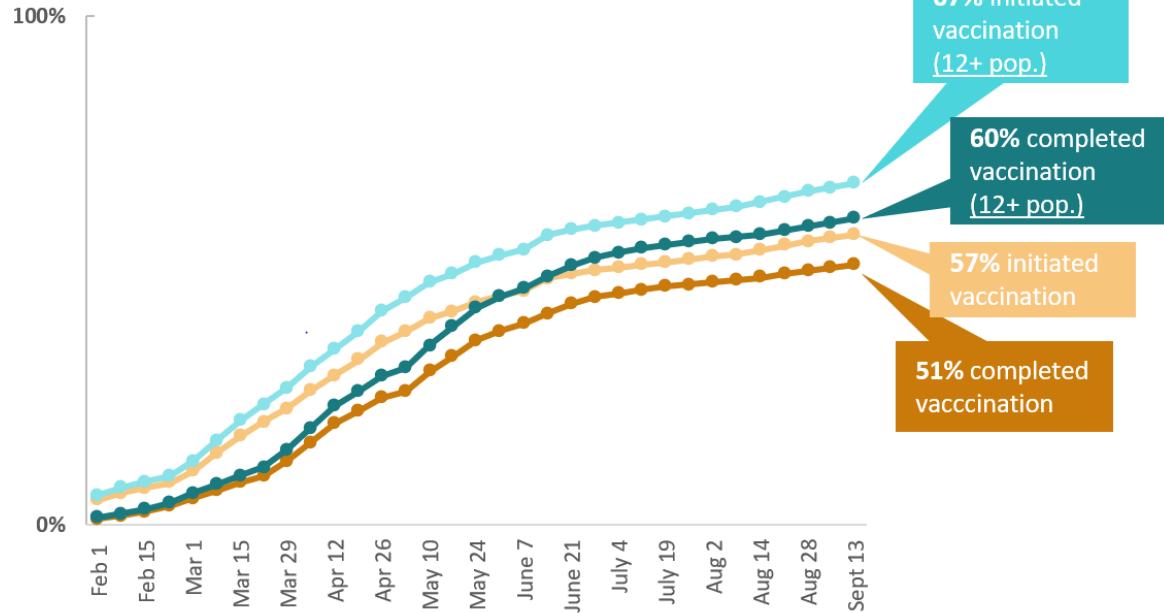
As of Sept 13, 2021

510,405 doses of COVID-19 vaccine have been administered in Clark County.

281,483 people in Clark County have *initiated vaccination.

255,515 people in Clark County have completed vaccination.

Percent of the Clark County population that have *initiated and completed vaccination against COVID-19



*People initiating vaccination represent the total number of people who have received at least one dose of any type of COVID-19 vaccine. People who are fully vaccinated represent the number of people who have received a second dose of a two-dose vaccine or one dose of a single-shot vaccine. Individuals who are fully vaccinated are included in the count of both people initiating vaccination and people fully vaccinated.



COVID-19 booster doses

- Booster doses are not currently recommended, but federal health officials are currently considering booster doses for certain groups.
- On Friday, the Food & Drug Administration's vaccine advisory committee voted to recommend booster doses of Pfizer vaccine 6 months after full vaccination for people 65 and older and those at high risk of severe COVID-19.
 - The committee voted against recommending booster doses for everyone 16 years and older.
- The CDC's vaccine advisory committee (ACIP) meets today and Thursday to consider recommending booster doses.
 - ACIP recommendation needed before booster doses can be administered.
- In Washington, the data on booster doses will also be reviewed by the Western States Scientific Safety Review Work Group.
 - If that group approves the recommendations, then booster doses can begin to be administered in Washington state.



Face coverings

- Face coverings continue to be required in all indoor public spaces and at outdoor events with 500 or more people under the state health order.
 - Public Health also recommends face coverings at outdoor events with less than 500 people when physical distancing cannot be maintained.
- Face coverings are an effective tool in preventing the spread of COVID-19.
 - Face coverings block respiratory droplets that carry the virus from spreading when an infected person coughs, sneezes or speaks.
 - Evidence of face covering effectiveness:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/science/science-briefs/masking-science-sars-cov2.html>
- Layering prevention measures, such as masking, physical distancing, staying home when sick and vaccination are most effective at reducing virus transmission in the community.



COVID-19 testing

- COVID-19 testing demand has increased over the last two months as virus activity increased.
 - Schools have also returned to in-person learning and require testing for any COVID-19 symptoms, per state guidance.
 - And more events and travel are requiring vaccination or negative test results.
- Most providers continue to offer COVID-19 testing, but appointments are not as readily available as they have been in the past for several reasons:
 - Sudden increase in demand as delta variant become more prevalent and virus activity surged
 - Shortage of testing supplies
 - Providers don't have the staffing to set up testing clinics/sites like they did during the winter

