

Public Health COVID-19 update

Alan Melnick, MD, MPH, CPH

Board of Health

May 20, 2020



Washington state

Washington State Department of Health data dashboard



Clark County

as of May 19

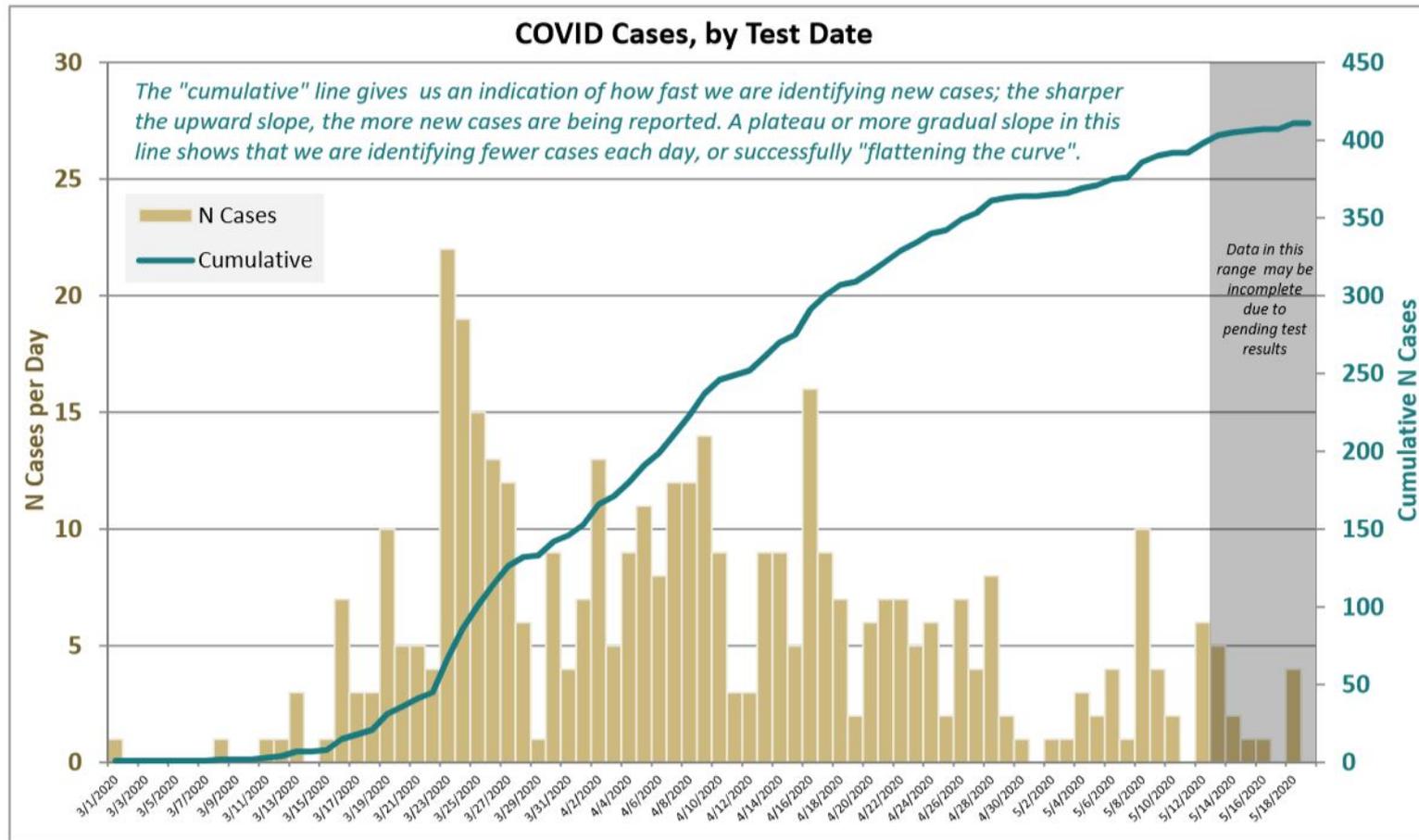
Number positive tests	412
Number of deaths	25
Number of people tested*	7,613

**DOH data as of May 17. Does not include rapid testing.*



Clark County

as of May 19



Case interviews and contact notification



Case interviews

- Provider and/or laboratory report positive test result to Public Health
- Public Health staff contact the person who tests positive. Instruct the sick person to stay home (isolation) until they are no longer considered contagious.
- We ask the sick person:
 - If they have symptoms and when their symptoms started
 - Where they have been
 - Who they had contact with



Contact notifications

- Based on information gathered from the interviews, Public Health identifies anyone who was in close contact with the sick person and may have been exposed to COVID-19.
- Close contacts are identified as people who:
 - Were within 6 feet for more than 10 minutes
 - Were near sick person's coughs or sneezes
 - Live in the same house
 - Cared for the sick person
- Close contacts are asked to stay home (quarantine) for 14 days from their last exposure to the sick person.
 - 14 days because incubation period is 2-14 days
 - Remain in quarantine for duration of the 14 days whether develop symptoms or not



Monitoring

- Public Health contacts people identified as close contacts every day for the duration of the 14-day quarantine period to ask about symptoms.
- Close contacts who develop symptoms are tested for COVID-19.
 - If test is **negative**, they remain in quarantine until 14 day incubation period ends.
 - A negative test does not release a person from quarantine early
 - If test is **positive**, they become a case and are isolated. They remain isolated until they are no longer considered contagious.





CLARK COUNTY
WASHINGTON
PUBLIC HEALTH

COVID-19 case interviews and contact notifications

1

Health care providers notify Clark County Public Health every time someone tests positive for COVID-19.



2

We call the sick person to see how they are doing. We ask them to stay home until they are no longer considered contagious. This is to ensure they don't spread the virus to others.



3

We ask the sick person to share some information with us:

- If they have symptoms and when their symptoms started
- Where they went while they may have been contagious
- Who they had close contact with while they may have been contagious



This information is kept private. We only use it to identify close contacts who may be at risk of getting COVID-19.

4

Close contacts include everyone who



was within 6 feet of the sick person for more than 10 minutes



was near the sick person's coughs or sneezes



lives in the same home as the sick person



cared for the sick person

5

We call each of those close contacts and ask them to stay home for 14 days. We ask them to stay home so if they develop COVID-19, they don't get others sick. Staying home the whole time is important because people can spread COVID-19 before they know they are sick.



6

We call or text those close contacts every day to see if they've developed symptoms. If so, we help them to get tested. We also ask if they need other help, like someone to pick up their groceries.



Learn more and stay up-to-date on COVID-19 information on the County Public Health website

www.clark.wa.gov/public-health/novel-coronavirus

51920



Misinformation

- Public Health is working to correct misinformation about case interviews and contact notifications.
- The process is:
 - voluntary
 - confidential (information is protected by HIPAA)
 - done over the phone
 - will not require people to isolate or quarantine outside of their home
 - will not require families to be separated if one member is identified as a close contact or if one member tests positive
 - is only used to identify those who are at risk of getting sick and let them know they have been exposed, offer guidance and assistance
 - conducted by Public Health staff, volunteers and contracted workers (National Guard will not be used in Clark County)



Phase 2 variance



Phase 2 variance

- Gov. Inslee announced Tuesday new criteria to allow larger counties to apply for a variance to enter Phase 2 of the reopening plan.
- Clark County was one of 10 counties identified as eligible to apply.
 - Requires fewer than 10 cases per 100,000 people in the county over the last 14 days.
- Approval is dependent on meeting several metrics, outlined by the state Department of Health.
- Public Health believes Clark County can meet the criteria and is preparing an application for a Phase 2 variance.
 - Application requires Board of Health/County Council approval.
 - Also requires letters from the two local hospitals, certifying they can meet hospital-specific criteria.



Metrics – hospitals

- Letters certifying hospitals:
 - have capacity to accommodate increase in suspected or confirmed COVID-19 hospitalizations.
 - report and will continue to report data to the state health department
 - have 14-day supply of personal protective equipment
 - describe personal protective equipment conservation strategies being used
- **Status:** Public Health has requested letters from hospitals



Metrics – testing

- Ideal target is to perform about 50 tests per case and have a percent positivity of no more than 2 percent.

Week ending	No. tests reported	No. tests negative	No. tests positive	Positivity	Ideal target
April 18, 2020	1049	991	58	5.53%	2900
April 25, 2020	1382	1347	35	2.53%	1750
May 2, 2020	1563	1540	23	1.47%	1150
May 9, 2020	1583	1557	26	1.64%	1300
Total	5577	5435	142	2.55%	

Data through May 16 should be available later this week.



Metrics – case interviews, contact notifications

- Number of people necessary to do case interviews and contact notifications
 - Minimum of 15 staff per 100,000 population
 - Clark County: 488,500 residents requires about 73 staff
 - **Status:** Staffing plan to contract with Public Health Institute and hiring of temporary Public Health workers, as approved by County Council, will meet these requirements.
- Number of cases identified in past four weeks and percentage notified within 24 hours of positive test result.
- Number of close contacts identified in past four weeks and percentage notified within 48 hours of positive test result of case.
 - **Status:** Public Health is compiling this data.



Metrics – isolation/quarantine facility, services

- Number and type of isolation/quarantine facilities to house persons with COVID-19 who do not have a home.
 - Type of facility, number of rooms available, length of time space is secured and services provided.
 - **Status:** Motel that provides 54 rooms (2 beds per room) for quarantine and isolation (for 54-108 people, depending on household composition).
 - Facility secured through June 30, with proposal to extend through Oct. 31.
 - Services include laundry, food, transportation, case management, referrals and testing
- Public Health services provided (or links to services) for people in home isolation or quarantine, such as food and medications.
 - **Status:** Public Health operations and finance teams working on logistics for providing these services. Working on compiling resource guide.



Metrics – outbreak investigations

- Public Health capacity to conduct outbreak investigations in congregate living facilities (e.g. long-term care facilities, jails) and workplaces (e.g. food processing facility, manufacturing plant).
 - **Status:** Public Health is currently conducting outbreak investigations in these settings.



Next steps

- Public Health will continue to compile necessary information for variance request.
- Board of Health and County Council approval required.
- Submit variance request to Washington State Department of Health for review.
- Update Public Health website and social media throughout the process. Issue news releases when applications submitted and response received.



Thank you!

