



Jefferson County Department of Emergency Management



Community Situation Report

2021 COVID-19 Pandemic

Feb. 1, 2021

Slow vaccine delivery affecting vaccination progress

During this morning's Board of County Commissioner's meeting, Dr. Locke said that we are on the declining side of the third wave for COVID-19. "Cases are down by 40 percent from the early January peak, but they are still at a very high level," Locke said. There are a lot of questions about variants. "It is a concerning and inevitable problem with an out of control global pandemic," he said. All viruses mutate which may actually help the virus get stronger. There are currently four different strains and the UK strain will likely become predominate here. It is believed to be about 50 percent more contagious and there is some data out of the UK that suggests it might cause more severe illness. The South African variant is most concerning as it is more contagious and has vaccine resistance. The vaccines are effective, but less so, Locke stated.

"We need to get more serious about our public health measures to include masking, social distancing and practicing good hygiene," said Dr. Locke. "As a country, we have not come together with a national control program. Anyone who has been on the fence about masking or social distancing needs to get off the fence. You are jeopardizing your own health and that of others." Regarding vaccination efforts, we have been moving as rapidly as we can, limited only by the availability of vaccine. Just over 5,000 doses have been administered in Jefferson County, 90 percent by Jefferson Healthcare Hospital and 10 percent by local pharmacies. "The hospital can't schedule more appointments for vaccinations until more vaccine comes in. We have no choice but to be patient," Locke said. Commenting on the advisability of wearing two masks, Locke said he is a fan of that practice. "The inner mask should be a surgical mask and the outside mask one of cloth. Mixing the different fabrics works and is an improvement over one or the other alone," said Locke.

During a press conference last Tuesday, Gov. Inslee

said it will be some weeks before the next age group can get vaccinated with the limiting factor being the lack of vaccine doses. "We can protect ourselves while we are waiting for the vaccine," he said. "This is not a time to let up on our guard. It's tempting, but now we have to double-down in part because of the new variants. We are dealing with more than just one variant now but we have the ability to protect ourselves if we keep up with masking, social distancing and good hygiene."

Later in the week, Gov. Inslee announced changes to the state's reopening plan—Roadmap to Recovery that will allow regions who meet any three of the four metrics to move to Phase 2. The four metrics remain the same and include the trend in case rate, the trend in hospital admissions rate, percent ICU occupancy and percent positivity. For more information about the metrics go to <https://coronavirus.wa.gov/what-you-need-know/roadmap-recovery-metrics>.

Two orders extended by Insurance Commissioner

On Jan. 22, State Insurance Commissioner Mike Kreidler extended two of his previously declared orders to include his order requiring health insurers to waive copays and deductibles for any consumer requiring testing for COVID-19 and his order protecting consumers from receiving surprise bills for lab fees related to medically necessary testing for COVID-19. Both orders have been extended until Feb. 21, 2021. When the governor issues an emergency proclamation, the commissioner can issue an emergency order related to health care coverage to ensure access to care. The order lasts 60 days and can be extended by the commissioner for an additional 30 days, as long as the governor's emergency proclamation remains in effect.

Cases by Age

0-19	59
20-29	30
30-39	37
40-49	36
50-59	35
60-69	55
70-79	37
80+	18

Cases by Sex

Cases by Sex	N (%)
Female	150 (48.9%)
Male	157 (51.1%)

Cases by Location

Port Townsend	141
Mid-County	137
South County (Quilcene, Brinnon, West Jefferson)	29

2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) in Jefferson County, WA

Total Positives (confirmed cases reported since 3/2/2020)	307
Active Cases in Isolation	23
Negative	17,418
Percent Positive	1.73%
Test Results Pending	23
Total Tests Administered	17,748
Total Patients Recovered*	252
Cases Ever Hospitalized	22
Deaths	2
Two Week COVID-19 Case Rate per 100,000 (Jan 17-Jan 30)**	106.58

Last results received 2/1/2021. We are working with Jefferson Healthcare and other labs to provide the test result data. *WA State DOH: people are considered recovered at 28 days from the onset of symptoms if they are alive and not hospitalized. This table will be updated Monday through Friday. **This rate will be updated every Monday. Last Updated: 2/1/2021 at 3:22 PM.

Case Rate in Last 4 weeks

Week of:	Case Rate
12/27/20-01/09/21	125.39
01/03/21-01/16/21	119.12
01/10/21-01/23/21	75.24
01/17/21-01/30/21	106.58

% Positive in Past 4 Weeks

Week of:	Tests Completed	Cases	% Positive
01/04/21-01/10/21	535	18	3.36%
01/11/21-01/17/21	435	15	3.45%
01/18/21-01/24/21	422	11	2.60%
01/25/21-01/31/21	516	23	4.46%

<https://jeffersoncountypublichealth.org/1466/Case-Information>