

# Whatcom County COVID-19 Data Report

Whatcom County Health Department

Updated 9/09/21 for the period of 8/29/21 - 9/04/21

## Overview

This report is currently published weekly to provide a narrative of current COVID-19 trends, data not available elsewhere online, and a more in-depth analysis of COVID-19-related topics of interest. This report references data obtained from the [Washington State Department of Health's COVID-19 Data Dashboard](#) and [DOH Sequencing and Variants Report](#), [DOH Breakthrough Surveillance Report](#), as well as the [WCHD's Data Dashboard](#) and other COVID-related data. Note that information on these topics is rapidly evolving and the data are very dynamic. This report uses the most up-to-date data available and may change over time.

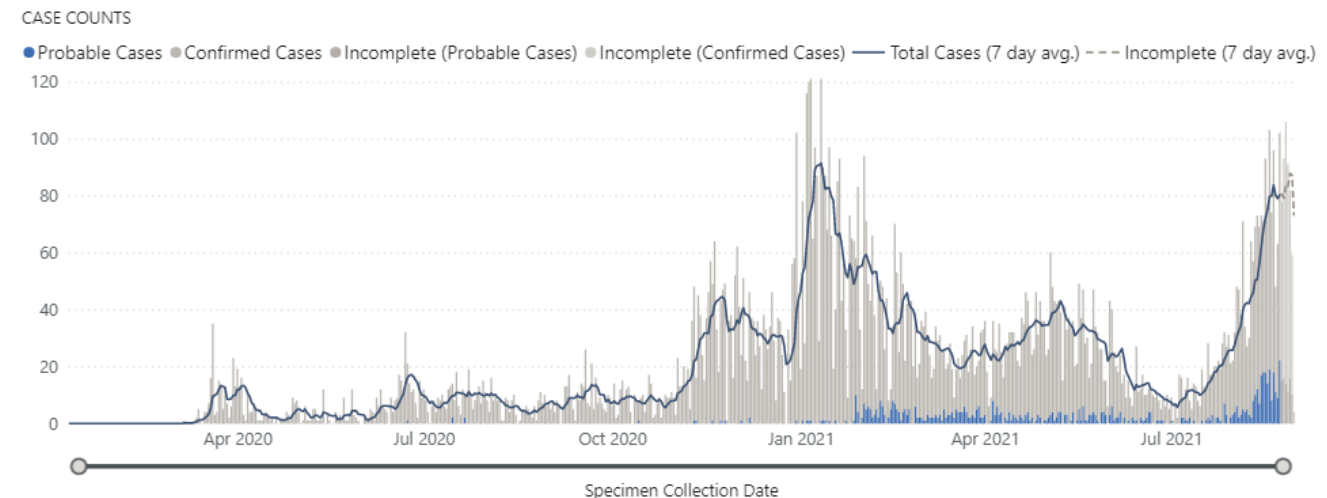
## For the Period of 8/29-9/4

7-Day Case Rate / 100,000	7-Day Hospitalization Rate / 100,000
260	11

## Overview of COVID-19 Cases

Whatcom County continued to see an elevated number of daily confirmed and probable cases from specimens collected during the week August 29 – September 04. The 7-day average count for confirmed and probable cases reached a peak of 97 per day for a weekly total of 609. The upward trend in Whatcom County has slowed despite reaching a level comparable to the highest point from the winter phase early in the year. The 14-day case rate for COVID-19 in Whatcom County remains below the state average for the 2-week period ending 9/4 and was the 12<sup>th</sup> highest rate among all counties in Washington.

Figure 1. COVID-19 Case Counts per Day in Whatcom County (WA DOH).



## COVID-19 Cases in Age Groups & Sub-County Areas

The highest 7-day case rate per 100,000 Whatcom County residents continues to be among 25 – 44 year olds (Figure 2). Children and youth under 17 years old continue to trend upward while other age groups are showing signs of decreasing. Among sub-county areas, a leveling in case rates was observed (Figure 3). The areas of Lynden, Blaine, Nooksack Valley, and Ferndale have case rates above the county average.

Figure 2. COVID-19 Case Rates per 100,000 by Age Group in Whatcom County

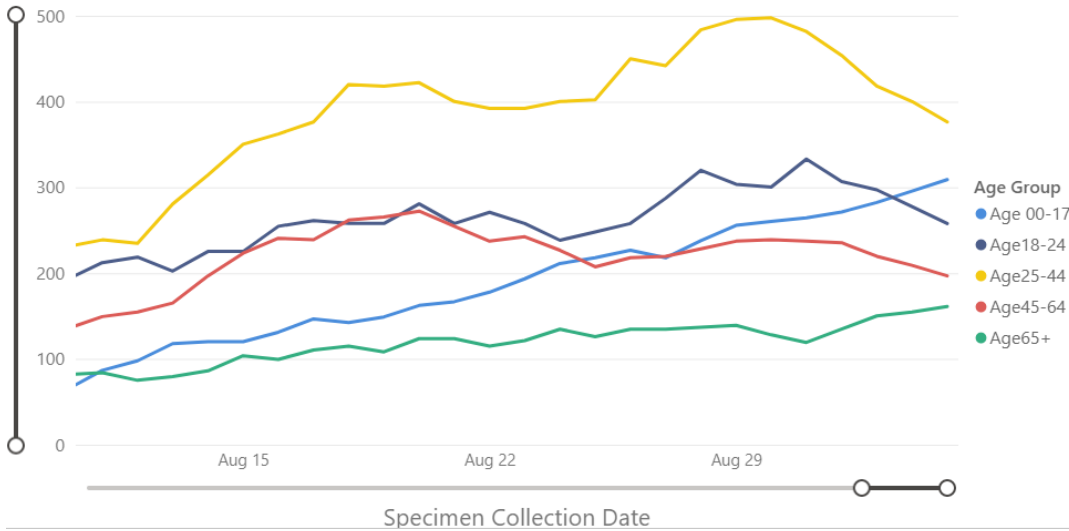
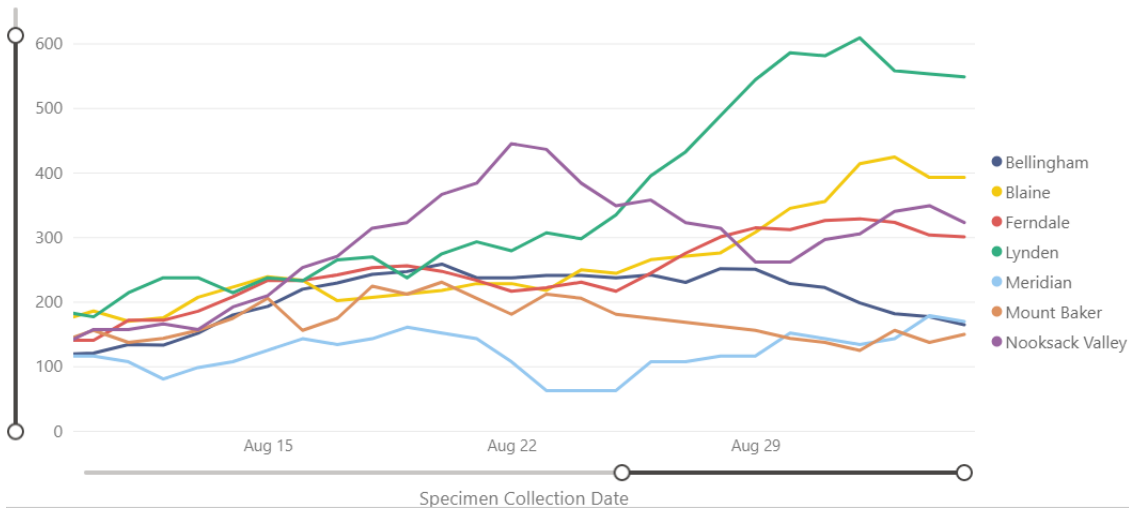


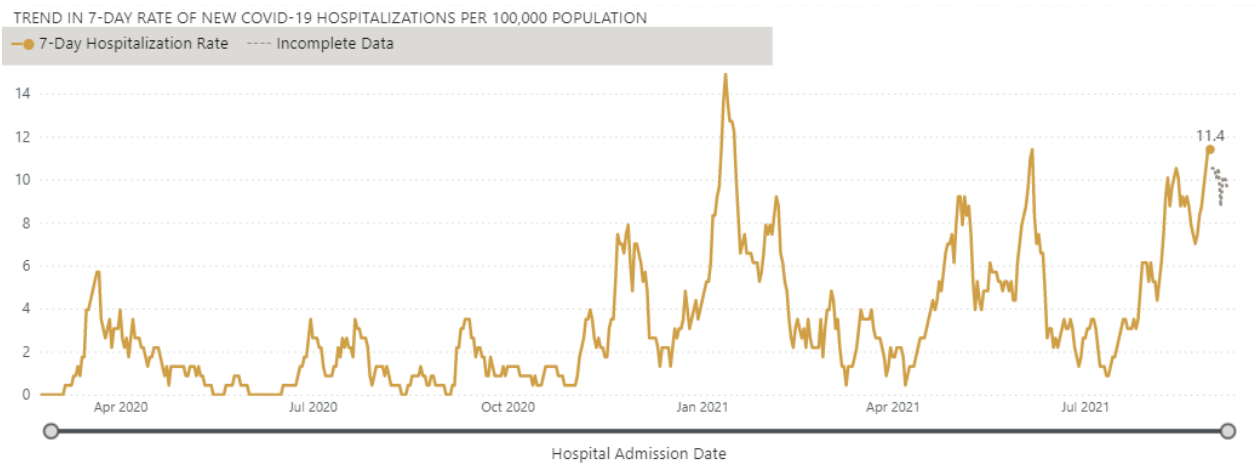
Figure 3. COVID-19 Case Rate for Sub-County Areas in Whatcom County



## COVID-19 Hospitalizations

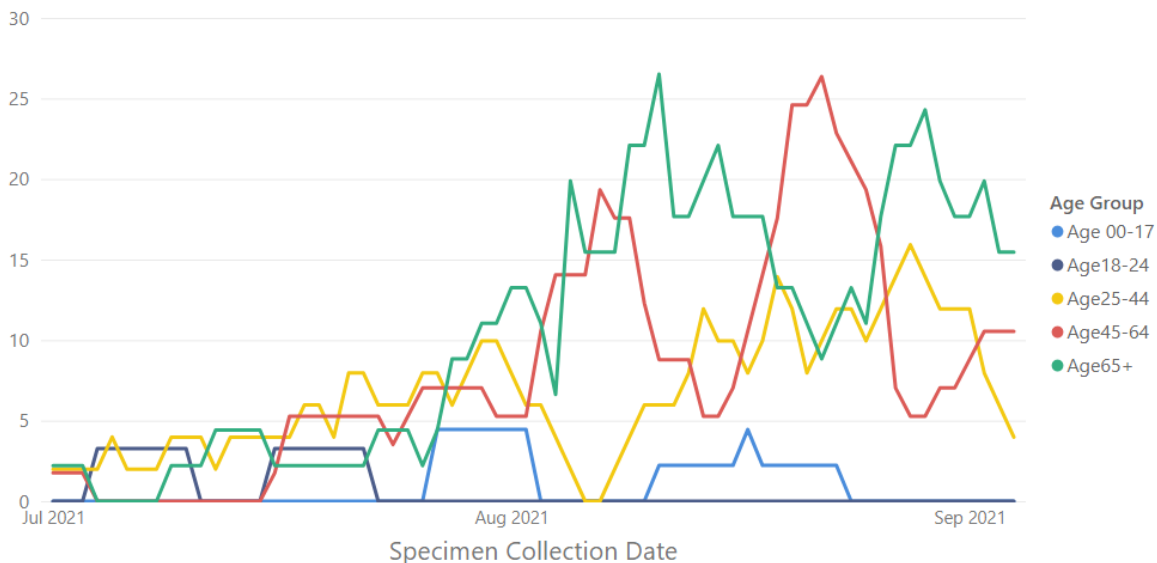
The 7-day rate for COVID-19 hospitalizations describes the number of Whatcom County residents who have tested positive (PCR test) for COVID-19 and have been hospitalized due to their COVID-19 illness. It does not include people who have tested positive for COVID-19 and are hospitalized for other reasons (ex: heart attack, injuries). This rate is useful for understanding the extent of severe disease over time. During 8/29 – 9/4, a total of 25 Whatcom residents were hospitalized due to COVID-19 illness. The COVID-19 hospitalization rate for Whatcom County residents remains below the state average and is currently 10th among Washington counties (out of 39 counties) (Figure 4).

Figure 4. 7-Day COVID-19 Hospitalization Rate for Whatcom County (WA DOH Dashboard)



When viewed across age groups, hospitalization rates for individuals whose specimens were collected during the current reporting week are highest for individuals 65 years and older. COVID-19 hospitalizations continue to be reported among individuals in all age groups 25 years and above, but none for children and youth ages 0 – 24 years (Figure 5).

Figure 5. COVID-19 Hospitalizations per 100,000 for Age Groups



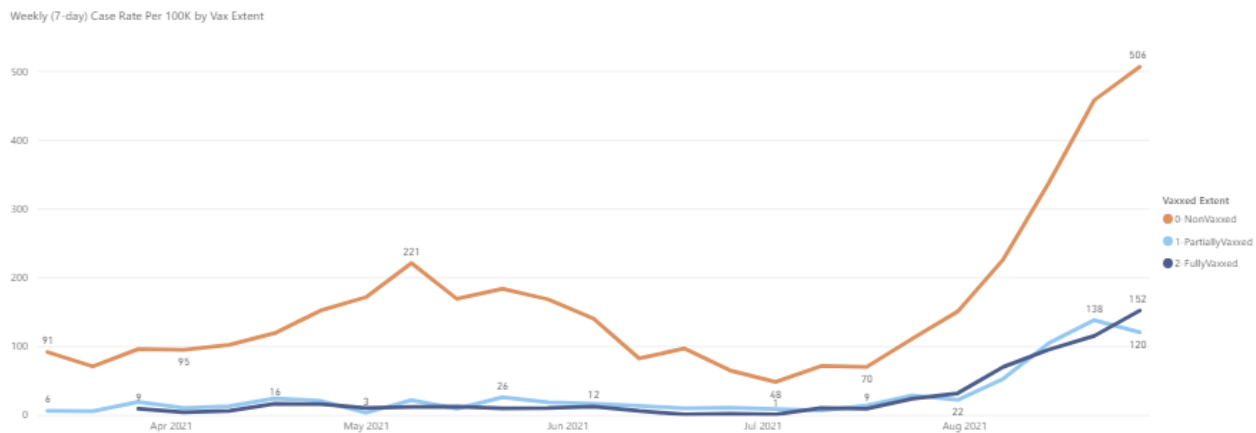
Note: PeaceHealth reports the number of COVID-19 Positive Patients, a measure of the number of people who are hospitalized for any reason/diagnosis and who have also tested positive for COVID-19. Their care requires COVID-19 protocols to prevent infection of others in the hospital, regardless of the severity of their illness. This number is helpful in understanding changes in our hospital's COVID unit capacity, as caring for COVID-positive patients is resource-intensive.

## Vaccinated Cases (i.e., Breakthrough Cases)

A “breakthrough case” is someone who becomes infected with COVID-19 after they are fully vaccinated. A person is considered fully vaccinated two weeks after receiving their final dose of the vaccine series. A person is considered partially vaccinated after receiving one or more doses of a COVID-19 vaccine but is not yet fully protected.

- Among total cases detected in Whatcom County residents, the case rate among unvaccinated residents remains significantly higher at 506 per 100,000 individuals compared to the case rates for partially (120) and fully vaccinated residents (152) (Figure 6).

Figure 6. Case Rates for Vaccinated, Partially Vaccinated, and Unvaccinated Residents in Whatcom County



- A total of eight Whatcom County residents have died due to COVID-19 who were fully vaccinated. There were three deaths due to COVID-19 during the week this report covers (Table 1):
  - a vaccinated male, 80-89 years
  - an unvaccinated male, 50-59 years
  - an unvaccinated female, 30-39 years

Table 1. Confirmed Cases, Hospitalizations, and Deaths among Vaccinated Individuals (Breakthroughs), Partially Vaccinated, and Unvaccinated individuals in Whatcom County for the period 8/29 – 9/4

	Total	Vaccinated (Breakthrough)	Unvaccinated or Partially Vaccinated
Cases Covid-19	609	151	458
Hospitalizations Covid-19	26	3	23
Deaths Covid-19	3	1	2

The latest statewide breakthrough report can be found [here](#).

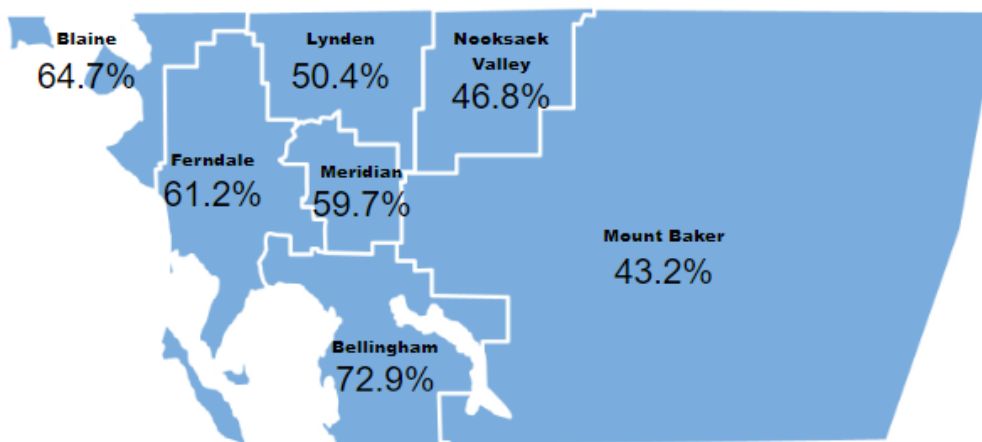
## COVID-19 Vaccinations

As of September 4, 58.5% of Whatcom County residents are fully vaccinated, and 64.2% have initiated vaccination. Of the 12 and older eligible population, 67% are fully vaccinated, and 73.6% have initiated vaccination. Of the eligible population, there are still 52K Whatcom County residents who have not initiated vaccination.

### Vaccination in Sub-County Areas

Vaccination initiation rates continue to be the lowest in the Nooksack (46.8%) and Mt. Baker (43.2%) sub-county areas (Figure 7) and among the Hispanic population (40.1%).

*Figure 7. Percent of Population Who Have Initiated COVID-19 Vaccination by Sub-County Area for Whatcom County*



Whatcom County  
**HEALTH**  
Department



For more information about this report, contact [Health\\_Data@co.whatcom.wa.us](mailto:Health_Data@co.whatcom.wa.us). Additional data available at [www.whatcomcounty.us/coviddata](http://www.whatcomcounty.us/coviddata).