

Clark County Phase 2 application



June 2, 2020



Statement of purpose

Clark County is seeking approval from Washington Secretary of Health John Wiesman to move from Phase 1 to full implementation of Phase 2 of the Safe Start plan to reopen Washington. Clark County met previous metrics outlined by the state for moving into Phase 2 before discovering an outbreak at Firestone Pacific Foods, a Vancouver food processing plant. Clark County Public Health has effectively responded to that outbreak and through aggressive universal testing of all employees and close contacts of employees, identified 123 cases in Clark County. Of the 72 Firestone employees who tested positive, 22 were asymptomatic at the time of their case interview. Without Public Health's decision to implement universal testing, these cases may have gone undetected and been able to spread the virus throughout the community. Given Public Health's effective outbreak response and the low incidence of COVID-19 cases unrelated to the Firestone outbreak in the community, as well as the local hospitals' ability to respond to potential surges in case numbers, Clark County is confident it can safely reopen the local economy.

Clark County case data, epidemiology

Clark County (population 488,500) has a COVID-19 incidence rate of 31.3 cases per 100,000 people during the two-week period of May 14-27 (measured by specimen collection date). During that period, Clark County identified 153 cases of COVID-19. The vast majority of the cases reported to Public Health during that period have been associated with the outbreak at Firestone Pacific Foods.

When looking at the number of cases verified by Clark County Public Health over last 17 days (May 16-June 1), only 35 of 158 cases have not been linked to Firestone. The overall incidence during that period is 32.35 cases per 100,000 people. However, when the verified cases among Firestone employees and their close contacts are removed, the incidence over that period is just 7.16 cases per 100,000 people (see table below).

Date Case Verified	Firestone Contact Cases	Firestone Cases	Other Cases	TOTAL	Without Firestone
5/16/2020	0	1	2	3	2
5/17/2020	0	0	0	0	0
5/18/2020	0	2	0	2	0
5/19/2020	1	1	3	5	3
5/20/2020	0	1	4	5	4
5/21/2020	1	2	3	6	3



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5/22/2020	0	28	1	29	1
5/23/2020	1	21	2	24	2
5/24/2020	1	9	0	10	0
5/25/2020	14	1	3	18	3
5/26/2020	6	0	2	8	2
5/27/2020	24	4	2	30	2
5/28/2020	1	0	6	7	6
5/29/2020	0	1	3	4	3
5/30/2020	1	0	2	3	2
5/31/2020	1	0	2	3	2
6/1/2020	0	1	0	1	0
TOTAL	51	72	35	158	35
Rate per 100,000				32.35	7.16

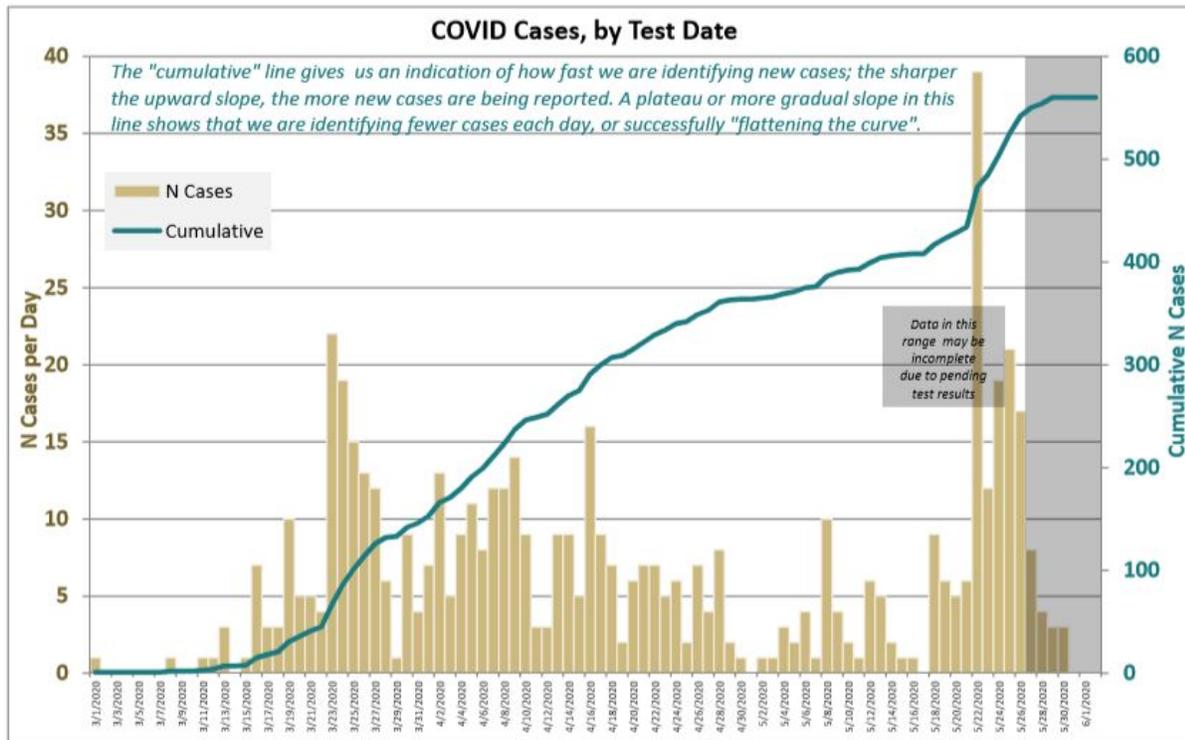
Here are the total number of cases to-date in Clark County and the total number of Clark County cases to-date linked to Firestone Pacific Foods:

Confirmed cases	560
COVID-associated deaths	25

Total Clark County cases linked to Firestone	123
Cases among Firestone employees	72
Cases among Firestone close contacts	51



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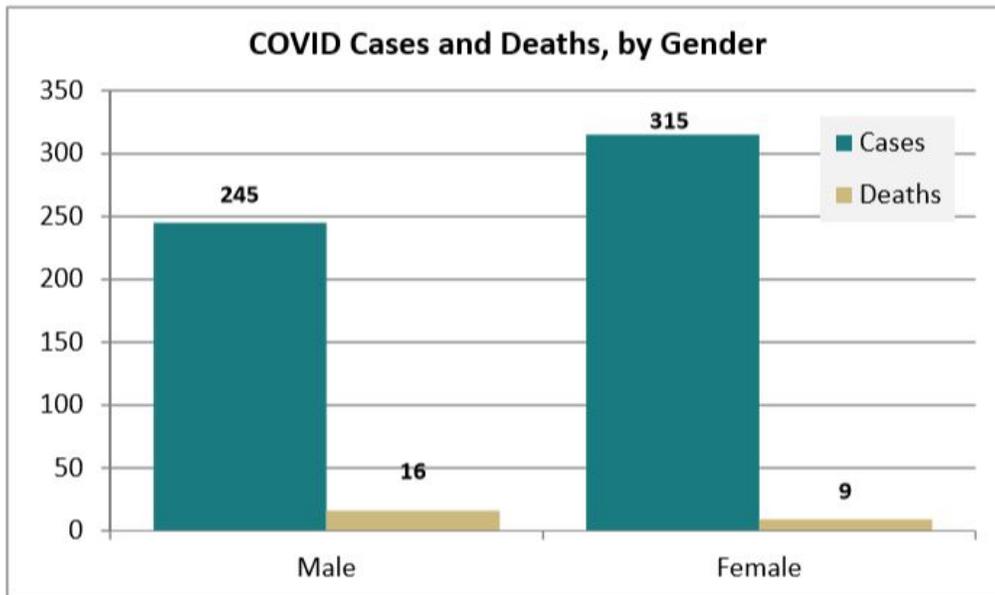
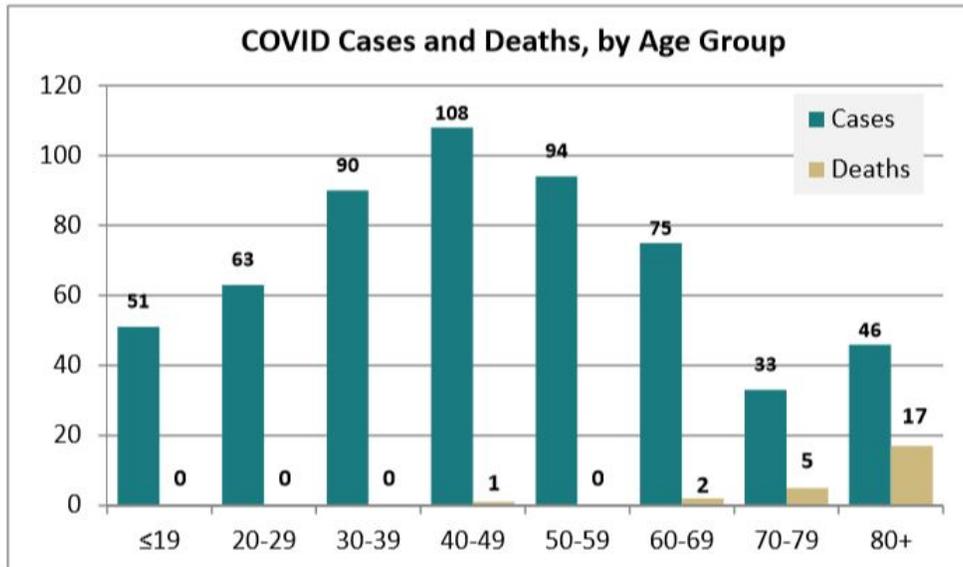


Among interviewed Clark County cases (485, 87 percent of total reported cases), 286 (59 percent) have a known epidemiologic link to another case or an outbreak. (Note: From April 6 to April 27, Clark County Public Health was completing abbreviated case investigations which did not include exposure or contagious period exposure tracking or contact tracing.)

Based on 2018 American Community Survey (ACS) data, the following populations are disproportionately represented among confirmed COVID-19 cases in Clark County:

- **Hispanic/Latinx:** This group makes up 10.0 percent of the Clark County population, and represents 31.9 percent of confirmed cases with available ethnicity data (486 cases, 87 percent).
- **Black or African American:** This group makes up 1.6 percent of the Clark County population, and represents 3.1 percent of confirmed cases with available race data (392 cases, 70 percent). Please note that the number of cases in this population is small (n=12).
- **Women:** This group makes up 50.1 percent of the Clark County population, and represents 56.3 percent of confirmed cases.
 - **Men** are disproportionately represented among deaths, representing 64 percent of Clark’s 25 COVID deaths.
- **Adults 30 and older:** This group makes up 73.8 percent of the Clark County population, and represents 91 percent of confirmed cases.
 - **Adults 70 and older** make up 10.1 percent of Clark County population. They represent 14.1 percent of confirmed cases and 88 percent of Clark’s 25 COVID deaths.

The graphs and tables below illustrate the demographic data on all Clark County COVID-19 cases.





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Race	Cases
American Indian/Alaska Native	N/A
Asian	14
Black/African American	12
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	N/A
White/Caucasian	307
Other	50
Unknown/Declined	168
TOTAL	560

Ethnicity	Cases
Hispanic/Latinx	155
Non-Hispanic/Latinx	331
Unknown/Declined	74
TOTAL	560

Note: Demographic groups with case counts <10 are redacted for privacy purposes.

Clark County hospital data

Clark County’s two hospitals – PeaceHealth Southwest Medical Center and Legacy Salmon Creek Medical Center – meet the state’s targets for health care system readiness. The hospitals have less than 80 percent of their beds occupied and less than 10 percent of their beds are occupied by suspected and confirmed COVID-19 cases. In addition, hospitalization trends in Clark County are remaining flat or decreasing.

The June 1 data from WA HEALTH confirms Clark County hospitals’ readiness.

	Legacy Salmon Creek	PeaceHealth Southwest	Clark County Total
Licensed bed occupancy (census / % occupied)	129 / 62%	244 / 54%	373 / 57%
Licensed beds occupied by positive and pending COVID-19 patients (census / % occupied)	8 / 4%	9 / 2%	17 / 3%
COVID-19 positive in house	2	4	6
COVID-19 pending test in house	6	5	11

In addition, the Clark County hospitals certify they each have at least a 14-day supply of personal protective equipment (PPE), including N-95 respirators, surgical masks, face shields, gloves and gowns. Hospitals using PPE conservation strategies certify they are following state Department of Health guidance on PPE reuse and extended use. Both hospitals are reporting, and will continue to report daily, all data requested by Department of Health (see enclosed letters).



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Hospital data demonstrates hospitalizations are remaining flat or decreasing (see table below).

Day	Date	Clark County combined		Legacy Salmon Creek		PeaceHealth Southwest	
		COVID Positive Census	Licensed beds occupied by COVID positive	Census	%	Census	%
Monday	5/11/2020	9	1.4%	1	0.5%	8	1.8%
Tuesday	5/12/2020	9	1.4%	0	0.0%	9	2.0%
Wednesday	5/13/2020	10	1.5%	0	0.0%	10	2.2%
Thursday	5/14/2020	8	1.2%	0	0.0%	8	1.8%
Friday	5/15/2020	7	1.1%	0	0.0%	7	1.6%
Saturday	5/16/2020						
Sunday	5/17/2020						
Monday	5/18/2020	4	0.6%	0	0.0%	4	0.9%
Tuesday	5/19/2020	4	0.6%	0	0.0%	4	0.9%
Wednesday	5/20/2020	7	1.1%	1	0.5%	6	1.3%
Thursday	5/21/2020	7	1.1%	1	0.5%	6	1.3%
Friday	5/22/2020	7	1.1%	1	0.5%	6	1.3%
Saturday	5/23/2020						
Sunday	5/24/2020						
Monday	5/25/2020						
Tuesday	5/26/2020	6	0.9%	1	0.5%	5	1.1%
Wednesday	5/27/2020	8	1.2%	3	1.4%	5	1.1%
Thursday	5/28/2020	7	1.1%	3	1.4%	4	0.9%
Friday	5/29/2020	6	0.9%	2	1.0%	4	0.9%
Saturday	5/30/2020						
Sunday	5/31/2020						
Monday	6/1/2020	6	0.9%	2	1.0%	4	0.9%
Tuesday	6/2/2020	6	0.9%	2	1.0%	4	0.9%

Testing

Testing capacity has continued to increase in Clark County, with an average of 348.29 tests conducted per day (2,438 total) during the most recent week for which testing data is available. During the most recent four-week period for which data is available, the COVID-19 positivity rate in Clark County was 2 percent, meeting the metric set by the state. Clark County has met the required metrics for positivity (no more than 2 percent) and number of tests performed (50 tests per case) in three of the four most recent weeks for which data is available. The fourth week (CDC week 21) includes the first two days of universal



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testing of employees at Firestone Pacific Foods. Through that testing, Clark County Public Health identified 22 employees who were asymptomatic at the time of their case interviews.

CDC Week	Week Starting	Week Ending	No. Positive	No. Tests Reported	Positivity	Ideal Target
18	4/26/2020	5/2/2020	28	1702	1.65%	1400
19	5/3/2020	5/9/2020	32	1911	1.67%	1600
20	5/10/2020	5/16/2020	23	1872	1.23%	1150
21	5/17/2020	5/23/2020	79	2438	3.24%	3950
Total			162	7923	2.04%	8100

During the last week (May 25- June 1), Clark County identified 74 cases of COVID-19. Of those, 51 cases were verified as being symptomatic. The median number of days from symptom onset to COVID-19 specimen collection (among symptomatic cases) was three days.

Over the last four weeks (May 4 to June 1), Clark County identified 200 COVID-19 cases. Of those, 136 cases were verified as being symptomatic. During that four-week time period, the median number of days from symptom onset to COVID-19 specimen collection (among symptomatic cases) was three days.

Clark County Public Health is confident this metric will continue to improve with increased staffing for case investigations and contact tracing, and enhanced outreach to providers and the public. The increased staffing will enable Public Health to more quickly identify close contacts, educate them on symptoms and encourage testing as soon as symptoms begin. Monitoring of close contacts will also help to identify contacts who are symptomatic and arrange for prompt testing.

Public Health has already taken steps to stress the importance of early testing among health care providers and the public. Public Health issued an advisory to all local health care providers on May 4, relaying the updated Department of Health testing guidance and asking providers to test all patients exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 as quickly as possible. In addition, Public Health issued a news release on May 11 urging people with symptoms to seek testing as soon as possible. These messages have also been shared on the county's website and social media platforms in English, Spanish and Russian.

Testing sites

Clark County is encouraging people to seek testing as soon as they develop symptoms of COVID-19. Early testing and case identification is crucial to quickly isolating cases, placing close contacts in quarantine and slowing the spread of COVID-19 in the community.



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Clark County has identified and notified the public of medical clinics providing testing to anyone in the community, not only established or insured patients. Clark County Public Health issued a news release highlighting the testing guidance and providing the names and contact information for these sites. This information has also been posted on the Public Health and Clark County websites and shared on the county's social media accounts in English, Spanish and Russian.

Clark County has at least 27 medical clinics and urgent care clinics providing a combination of PCR and point-of-care COVID-19 testing. In addition, Clark County's two hospitals – PeaceHealth Southwest Medical Center and Legacy Salmon Creek Medical Center – are providing COVID-19 testing in emergency departments and for admitted patients. At least one local clinic, Rose Urgent Care and Family Practice, is providing drive-up testing for anyone in the community who needs testing, including those who are uninsured.

The following clinics are offering testing to anyone in the community who needs to be tested:

- Legacy GoHealth – Hazel Dell, 9 am to 5 pm Monday – Friday, 8 am to 8 pm Saturday – Sunday
- Legacy GoHealth – Cascade Park, 9 am to 5 pm Monday – Friday, 8 am to 8 pm Saturday – Sunday
- Providence Family Medicine Battle Ground, 8 am to 6 pm Monday – Friday, 9 am to 5 pm Saturday – Sunday
- Rose Urgent Care and Family Practice, 9 am to 6 pm Monday – Friday, 9 am to 5 pm Saturday
- The Vancouver Clinic – 6 locations, 7 am to 8 pm Monday – Friday, 7 am to 5 pm Saturday – Sunday

In addition, Sea Mar Community Health Centers has five locations in Clark County serving low-income and uninsured residents, specializing in service to Latinos. Sea Mar is offering testing at the following locations:

- Battle Ground Medical Clinic, 8 am to 5 pm Monday – Friday
- Vancouver Medical Clinic – Delaware, 8 am to 5 pm Monday – Saturday
- Vancouver Medical Clinic – East Vancouver, 8 am to 5 pm Monday – Friday
- Vancouver Medical Clinic – Fourth Plain, 8 am to 5 pm Monday – Friday
- Vancouver Medical Clinic – Salmon Creek, 8 am to 5 pm Monday – Friday

Clark County Public Health is also coordinating, through a partnership with The Vancouver Clinic, facility-wide COVID-19 testing for people staying in local homeless shelters. Through this partnership, Public Health has arranged for testing at four local homeless shelters and has plans for testing at three additional sites.

Case investigations and contact tracing (5)

Based on Clark County's population of 488,500 people, the county needs about 74 case investigators and contact tracers, assuming 15 contact tracers for every 100,000 population ($488,500/100,000 \times 15 = 73.275$).



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Clark County Public Health currently has 17 department staff (17 FTE) trained and ready to perform case investigations and contact tracing. The 17 staff include seven public health nurses, three epidemiologists, four environmental health specialists and three community health workers.

In addition, Public Health has six registered nurses (6 FTE) working as temporary employees and six volunteers (2 FTE) who are trained and ready to perform case investigations and contact tracing. Clark County Public Health has secured a contract with Public Health Institute to provide additional case investigation and contact tracing support. The Public Health Institute currently has 20 people (20 FTE) hired and trained to perform contact notification.

In total, Clark County currently has 49 people (45 FTE) trained and ready to do case investigations and contact tracing.

Within the next four weeks, Public Health Institute will have an additional 18 people (18 FTE) trained and ready to do this work. In addition, Public Health will have an additional eight temporary registered nurses trained and performing this work. These eight additional nurses are currently awaiting background checks and the will begin training.

In total, Clark County will have 71 FTEs trained and ready to do case investigations and contact tracing within the next four weeks. To meet the minimum required number of 15 per 100,000 county population, Public Health will recruit and train other department staff, such as environmental health specialists and community health workers, to fill those three roles.

A letter certifying Public Health Institute's ability to assist Clark County with case and contact investigations is enclosed.

Since March 30, Clark County Public Health has conducted contact tracing for those cases in high-risk or congregate settings, such as health care workers, long-term care facility staff and residents, and those associated with the jail. Public Health resumed contact tracing activities for all cases beginning May 15.

In the past two weeks (May 19-June 1), Clark County has identified 153 cases of COVID-19 and reached 73 percent of cases by phone or in person within 24 hours of receipt of a positive lab test. In the most recent week (May 26-June 1), Public Health reached 82 percent of cases within 24 hours of receipt of positive lab result. During the prior week (May 19-25), while experiencing a surge of new cases identified during universal testing among employees and close contacts at Firestone Pacific Foods, Public Health reached 67 percent of cases within 24 hours.

In the past two weeks (May 19-June 1), Clark County has identified 283 close contacts and reached 51 percent of close cases by phone or in person within 48 hours of receipt of a positive lab test. In the most recent week (May 26-June 1), Public Health reached 80 percent of close contacts within 48 hours of receipt of positive lab result. During the prior week (May 19-25), while experiencing a surge of new cases identified during universal testing among employees and close contacts at Firestone Pacific Foods, Public Health reached 34 percent of close contacts within 48 hours.

The vast majority of current Clark County cases and close contacts in isolation and quarantine are linked to the outbreak at Firestone Pacific Foods. Clark County Public Health, through a team provided by



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Public Health Institute, began active monitoring of those cases and close contacts linked to Firestone on June 2. By the week of June 8, Public Health anticipates having increased staffing capacity enough to begin active monitoring of the remaining Clark County cases and close contacts. Active monitoring will consist of daily phone calls and/or text messages to cases and close contacts of cases to check on symptom status and their ability to successfully isolate or quarantine. Public Health will also offer wraparound services, such as grocery delivery and rental assistance, to help ensure cases and close contacts can successfully remain in isolation and quarantine. Public Health is currently providing wraparound services to cases and close contacts linked to the Firestone outbreak and those staying in the county's isolation and quarantine facility.

Clark County Public Health has been conducting case and contact investigations seven days a week since May 18.

Outbreak investigations

Outbreak investigation capacity

Clark County Public Health has developed internal COVID-19 investigation protocols, which include facility-specifics guidance (e.g. workplace, corrections, long-term care facilities), for responding to outbreaks in congregate type settings facilities and workplaces. Since the beginning of this pandemic, Clark County Public Health has identified and investigated nine outbreaks in long-term care facilities and six workplace outbreaks.

Clark County Public Health has nine health department staff trained to conduct outbreak investigations – seven public health nurses and two epidemiologists – as well as a certified infection preventionist who supports long-term care facility outbreak response. Public Health has also added and trained six temporary public health nurses who are supporting outbreak investigations.

Clark County Public Health has partnered and entered into an agreement with a local medical clinic, The Vancouver Clinic, to establish a strike team that conducts on-site testing at facilities experiencing an outbreak or where a significant exposure has occurred. Through this agreement, Public Health has facilitated universal testing of staff and residents in long-term care facilities with one or more cases. To date, Clark County Public Health has facilitated 1,281 tests for 992 individuals through this strike team. In addition to the strike team model, Clark County Public Health has mapped out available testing resources within the community to help improve the referral process among contacts and others who are interested in seeking testing.

Clark County does not currently have testing collection kits in reserve; however the county is anticipating 5,000 test kits later this week. A portion of this order will be retained for reserve; the rest will be distributed to our health care partners.

Clark County Public Health also helped to acquire a point-of-care COVID-19 testing machine for the Clark County Jail and provides a regular supply of test kits for the machine (about 75 test kits every two weeks).



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Clark County Public Health partners with the Department of Social and Health Services and Washington State Department of Health's Healthcare-Associated Infections team to investigate long-term care facility outbreaks. Public Health partners with Washington State Department of Labor and Industries for workplace-based investigations.

Outbreak responses

Clark County has for the last two months met the state metric for protecting high-risk populations, based on the number of outbreaks per week. Outbreaks are defined as two or more non-household cases epidemiologically linked within 14 days in a workplace, congregate living, or institutional setting. The table below details the number of outbreaks in Clark County, with the outbreak attributed to the CDC week in which they were first identified.

CDC Week	Start	End	N Outbreaks
1	12/29/2019	1/4/2020	0
2	1/5/2020	1/11/2020	0
3	1/12/2020	1/18/2020	0
4	1/19/2020	1/25/2020	0
5	1/26/2020	2/1/2020	0
6	2/2/2020	2/8/2020	0
7	2/9/2020	2/15/2020	0
8	2/16/2020	2/22/2020	0
9	2/23/2020	2/29/2020	0
10	3/1/2020	3/7/2020	1
11	3/8/2020	3/14/2020	0
12	3/15/2020	3/21/2020	4
13	3/22/2020	3/28/2020	4
14	3/29/2020	4/4/2020	3
15	4/5/2020	4/11/2020	1
16	4/12/2020	4/18/2020	0
17	4/19/2020	4/25/2020	0
18	4/26/2020	5/2/2020	0



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19	5/3/2020	5/9/2020	0
20	5/10/2020	5/16/2020	0
21	5/17/2020	5/23/2020	1
22	5/24/2020	5/30/2020	1
23	5/31/2020	6/6/2020	0
TOTAL			15

The table below provides details on each of the outbreaks in Clark County over the last four weeks.

CDC Week	Start	End	N Outbreaks	Facility Name	Facility Type	N Confirmed Cases	N Confirmed Clark Co. Cases	Outbreak Status
19	5/3/2020	5/9/2020	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
20	5/10/2020	5/16/2020	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
21	5/17/2020	5/23/2020	1	Firestone Pacific Foods	Workplace: Food processing & manufacturing	79	72	Ongoing
22	5/24/2020	5/30/2020	1	Pacific Enterprises	Workplace: Construction (Painting)	2	2	Ongoing

Protecting communities

Clark County Public Health’s response to the outbreak at Firestone Pacific Foods demonstrates the county’s ability to protect low-income communities and communities of color. This outbreak has impacted low-income and Spanish-speaking members of the community. Clark County responded by arranging for universal testing, utilizing translation services and providing wraparound services.

Clark County Public Health coordinated with The Vancouver Clinic and Firestone to arrange for free testing of all employees and their close contacts. This removed a financial burden and potential access barrier for uninsured employees.

Clark County Public Health worked with translators to conduct case interviews and contact notifications of all Spanish-speaking employees and close contacts impacted by the outbreak. Through these interpreters, Public Health was able to communicate with those impacted in the language they understand best to offer guidance around isolation and quarantine and gather important information for protecting others who may have been exposed.



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In addition, Clark County Public Health has worked with cases in isolation and close contacts in quarantine to ensure their daily needs for food and housing are met. Through Clark County's wraparound services team, 20 households have been provided groceries and 17 individuals received rental assistance. The wraparound services team has also facilitated delivery of needed prescriptions and assistance with utility payments.

Clark County has also provided a variety of communications and resources in multiple languages. Clark County has webpages translated in Spanish and Russian that provide information about symptoms, testing, case interviews and contact notification, and public health recommendations, as well as a range of resources. Social media messaging on these topics have also been translated and targeted to zip codes with higher percentages of Spanish- and Russian-speaking households.

Additional COVID-19 resources are provided on the Clark County and Clark County Public Health websites in Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese and Thai.

Isolation and quarantine facilities, services

Isolation and quarantine facility for unhoused population

Clark County has secured one facility to provide isolation and quarantine for people who are unhoused and are identified as a COVID-19 case or a close contact of a COVID-19 case.

A Vancouver Motel 6 has been secured and is serving as the COVID-19 Quarantine and Isolation Motel for Unhoused Population. The county has up to 54 rooms available for isolation and quarantine. Each room has two beds, providing the ability to house 54 to 108 people, depending on household composition. Clark County has secured the facility through June 30. A pending Title V funding request would extend operations at the facility through Oct. 31.

As of June 2, eight people are in quarantine and nobody is in isolation at the facility.

The following services (and entity providing services) are provided at the motel: housing (motel), laundry (vendor), food (nonprofit Meals on Wheels), cleaning (vendor), transportation (vendor), site management and operations (Clark County), case management and connection to community resources (local nonprofits), referrals for service (nonprofit Council for the Homeless), COVID-19 testing (Clark County Public Health and The Vancouver Clinic).

Home isolation and quarantine services

Clark County Public Health is currently providing wraparound services to people in home isolation or quarantine. These services include groceries, rental assistance, utility assistance and prescription medication delivery.

Staff doing case interviews and contact notification identify individuals who currently need resources or who may need support later in their isolation or quarantine period. Those referrals are emailed to the wraparound services team via a designated email address. Upon receipt of the referral, a wraparound services team member calls the individual to gather necessary information to complete the request,



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such as grocery lists, contact information for housing rental or leasing office, and utility account information.

Public Health has provided grocery service to 20 households and rental assistance to 17 individuals linked to the Firestone Pacific Foods outbreak through this wraparound services team.

Public Health Institute will soon take over providing people in home isolation or quarantine with needed services they cannot otherwise obtain. The Public Health Institute is a 501(c)3 nonprofit with more than 55 years of experience providing staffing support services for state, local and federal public health departments and government agencies.

Referrals for these services will be made by Clark County Public Health, using a secure data platform that will meet necessary data security standards. Public Health Institute and Clark County Public Health will implement case navigation activities using a secure data platform to ensure clients connect with Public Health Institute. Public Health Institute will measure and implement outreach to clients following strict quality assurance and performance metrics to ensure it meets the required caseload.

Additional information

Questions or requests for additional information can be made to Dr. Alan Melnick, Clark County Public Health director and Clark County health officer: alan.melnick@clark.wa.gov or 564.397.8412.