

Yakima County COVID-19 Trends Report

August 2, 2022 - September 7, 2022

Overview

The Yakima Health District is publishing this report weekly to provide more information on current trends in COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations and deaths in Yakima County. This report also includes data on COVID-19 breakthrough cases. The data referenced in this report comes from the Yakima Health District's internal database, the Washington Disease Reporting System (WDRS), and the Washington Immunization Information Systems (WAIS). Note that the data on this report is preliminary and may change based on additional reporting.

Considerations for COVID-19 Breakthrough Data

While fully vaccinated individuals may still become infected with COVID-19, multiple factors determine the proportion of COVID-19 cases among fully vaccinated persons:

- **Breakthrough infections are expected to occur as more individuals become vaccinated**
 - When a larger proportion of the population is fully vaccinated, the expected proportion of cases among fully vaccinated individuals is also larger.
- **New COVID-19 variants may affect the proportion of breakthrough infections**
 - In late July, the Delta variant became the dominant variant in Washington and likely contributed to the increase in breakthrough cases that was observed over the summer due to its ability to spread faster than previous strains. On December 3, 2021, the Washington State Department of Health detected a new, more contagious variant called Omicron which has also contributed to another surge in breakthrough cases.
- **While the COVID-19 vaccines remain effective in preventing severe illness due to COVID-19, they are not 100% effective against COVID-19 infection**
 - Preventative measures such as the use of face masks, social distancing, and testing remain important to help maximize protection against current variants and reduce the spread of the virus in areas with high or substantial levels of community transmission.
- **Waning immunity may occur over time**
 - Waning immunity from the vaccine may occur due to the combination of decreasing protection as time passes since getting vaccinated, as well as the greater infectiousness of COVID-19 variants. Additionally, waning immunity appears to be more common among older individuals.



For additional COVID-19 data, visit:

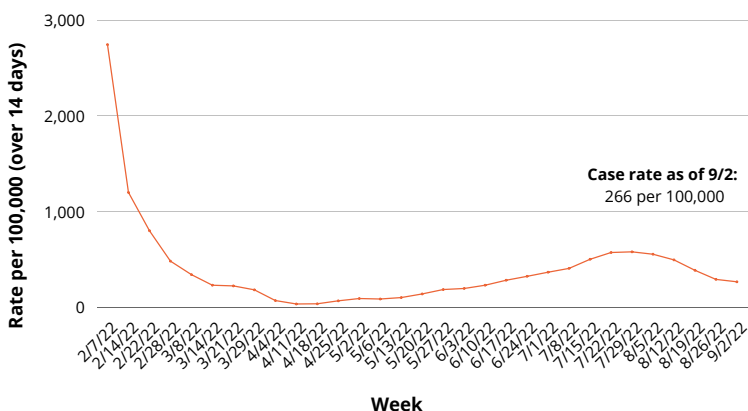
www.yakimacounty.us/2404/Data-Summary

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COVID-19 Cases

COVID-19 case rate by week, February 7, 2022 - September 2, 2022



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COVID-19 Breakthrough Cases

Figure 4. COVID-19 cases by vaccination status, January - August 2022

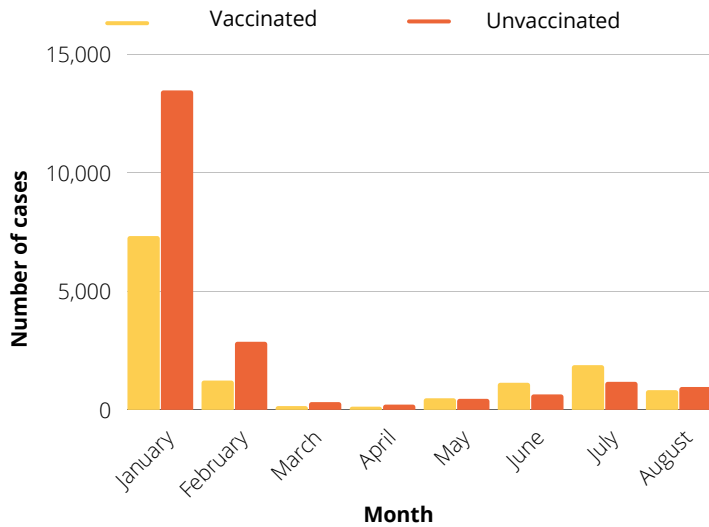


Table 1. COVID-19 cases by vaccination status, January - August 2022

Month	Vaccinated	Unvaccinated	Total
January	7,323 (35%)	13,460 (65%)	20,783 (100%)
February	1,231 (30%)	2,860 (70%)	4,091 (100%)
March	154 (33%)	312 (67%)	466 (100%)
April	128 (38%)	210 (62%)	338 (100%)
May	477 (51%)	454 (49%)	900 (100%)
June	1,131 (64%)	645 (36%)	1,776 (100%)
July	1,874 (61%)	1,175 (39%)	3,049 (100%)
August	821 (46%)	953 (54%)	1,774 (100%)

Key Observations

COVID-19 vaccines continue to protect against infection and against severe disease, especially when a person is up to date on vaccinations. Based on Yakima County's low COVID-19 community risk level, it is recommended that everyone stay up-to-date on their COVID-19 vaccination, including recommended booster doses. Additionally, increased ventilation, avoiding contact with people with COVID-19, and following isolation and quarantine guidance remain important to limiting the spread of the virus. People at higher risk of severe illness are also encouraged to take additional measures, regardless of vaccination status, such as talking to a provider about treatment options if they get COVID-19.

COVID-19 Breakthrough Hospitalizations

Figure 5. COVID-19 Hospitalizations by COVID-19 Vaccination Status, January - August 2022

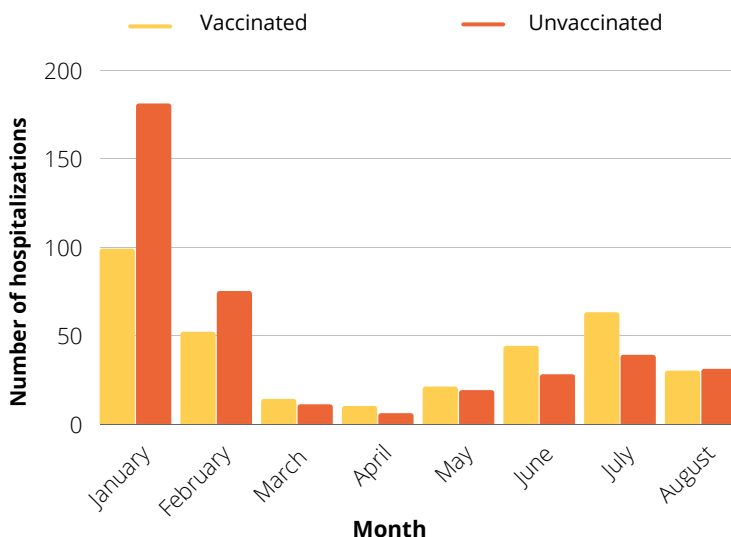


Table 2. COVID-19 Hospitalizations by COVID-19 Vaccination Status, January - August 2022

Month	Vaccinated	Unvaccinated	Total
January	99 (35%)	181 (65%)	280 (100%)
February	52 (41%)	75 (59%)	127 (100%)
March	14 (56%)	11 (44%)	25 (100%)
April	10 (63%)	6 (38%)	16 (100%)
May	21 (53%)	19 (48%)	40 (100%)
June	44 (61%)	28 (39%)	72 (100%)
July	63 (62%)	39 (38%)	102 (100%)
August	30 (49%)	31 (51%)	61 (100%)

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COVID-19 Breakthrough Deaths

Figure 6. COVID-19 Deaths by COVID-19 Vaccination Status, January - August 2022

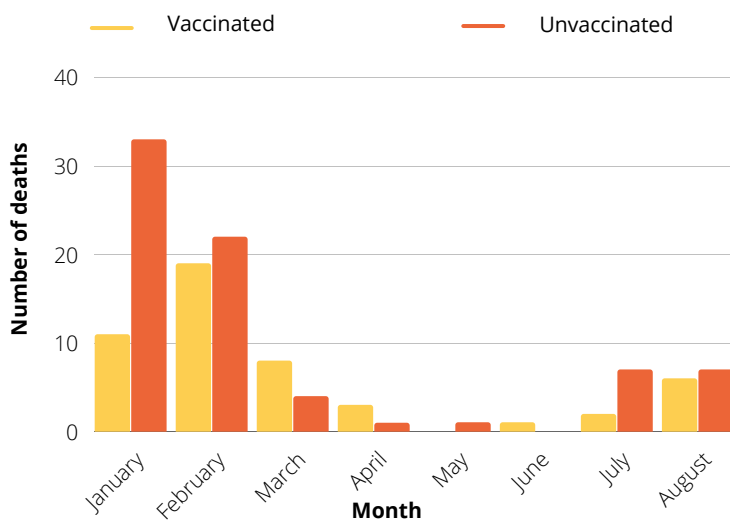


Table 3. COVID-19 Deaths by COVID-19 Vaccination Status, January - August 2022

Month	Vaccinated	Unvaccinated	Total
January	11 (25%)	33 (75%)	44 (100%)
February	19 (46%)	22 (54%)	41 (100%)
March	8 (67%)	4 (33%)	12 (100%)
April	3 (75%)	1 (25%)	4 (100%)
May	0 (0%)	1 (100%)	1 (100%)
June	1 (100%)	0 (0%)	1 (100%)
July	2 (22%)	7 (78%)	9 (100%)
August	6 (46%)	7 (54%)	13 (100%)

Key Observations

Similar to breakthrough cases, COVID-19 hospitalizations and deaths have become more prevalent in vaccinated individuals. This is likely due to several factors such as an increase in the number of vaccinated individuals, multiple COVID-19 variants, and waning immunity. In Yakima County, the majority of hospitalizations and deaths continue to be among older age groups. Additionally, all COVID-19 deaths among vaccinated individuals have been among those with underlying health conditions. **As of September 1, 2022, the CDC has recommended new booster doses for people ages 12 and older who completed their primary vaccination series or received a booster dose two months ago.** These new boosters contain an updated bivalent formula that both boosts immunity against the original coronavirus strain and also protects against newer Omicron variants, including BA.4 and BA.5. Eligible individuals can get either the Pfizer or Moderna updated booster, regardless of whether their primary series or most recent dose was with Pfizer, Moderna, Novavax, or the Johnson & Johnson vaccine. More information is available at: www.YakimaVaccines.org

Definitions

- **COVID-19 case:** An individual who tested positive for COVID-19 with a positive molecular COVID-19 test, including a PCR and antigen test.
- **COVID-19 hospitalization:** An individual with confirmed COVID-19 who has been identified as being hospitalized through case investigation data in WDRS or linkage with with Rapid Health Information Network (RHINO) records.
- **COVID-19 death:** An individual who tested positive for COVID-19 and died due to complications from COVID-19. This data has been ascertained by internal YHD data.
- A **vaccinated individual** is someone who is ≥14 days post-completion of the primary series of an age-appropriate COVID-19 vaccine.
- An **unvaccinated individual** is someone who has not received an approved COVID-19 vaccine, or has not completed a COVID-19 vaccine series.
- A **breakthrough case** is defined as an instance when an individual who is fully vaccinated tests positive for COVID-19 at least 14 days after they have completed their primary COVID-19 vaccine series. Partially vaccinated individuals are not counted as breakthrough cases because they are not fully vaccinated.