

COVID-19 Breakthrough Cases Report

Oregon's Monthly Surveillance Summary
Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)



May 6, 2021

OHA Releases Latest Monthly Update on Breakthrough Cases

Oregon Health Authority has identified 611 COVID-19 vaccine breakthrough cases through May 3, including eight deaths. The number of vaccine breakthrough cases identified in Oregon remains very small when compared to the more than 1.3 million people who have completed their vaccine series against COVID-19.

While the Pfizer, Moderna and Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccines are all highly effective at preventing severe COVID-19 illness and death, no vaccine is 100% effective, and vaccine breakthrough cases will occur. More breakthrough cases are probable when community spread is high.

Vaccine breakthrough cases are defined as instances in which an individual received a positive COVID-19 test result at least 14 days after the completion of any COVID-19 vaccine series.

The median age of breakthrough cases is 51 years with 31% occurring in individuals older than 65. These cases have been reported in 32 counties and all health care preparedness regions.

Region 1	269
Region 2	2
Region 3	75
Region 5	40
Region 6	15
Region 7	76
Region 9	17

OHA is not reporting the regions in which the deaths took place. Of the 611 reported vaccine breakthrough cases, 14% (n=89) were observed in individuals who reside in long-term care facilities or other congregate care settings.

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Approximately half of the breakthrough cases have reported having at least one symptom. Forty-five persons, or fewer than 10% of the breakthrough cases, were hospitalized within two weeks of testing positive. The eight deaths represent approximately 1% of all cases; all deaths occurred in individuals over the age of 70 (range 70-96 years).

Eleven breakthrough cases were associated with variants of concern—B.1.427 (n=4), B.1.429 (n=3), B.1.351 (n=3), P.1 (n=1). Four breakthrough cases were associated with a variant of interest—B.1.526.

Recently the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention requested that states restrict reporting vaccine breakthrough cases to those hospitalized or who have died within two weeks of a positive COVID-19 test. State and local epidemiologists at Oregon Health Authority will continue to track all vaccine breakthrough cases and update this data monthly.