

COVID-19 Monthly Report

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



June 3, 2021

OHA Releases Latest Monthly Update on Breakthrough Cases

Through May 31, Oregon Health Authority has identified 1,009 COVID-19 vaccine breakthrough cases. Vaccine breakthrough cases are defined as instances in which an individual received a positive COVID-19 test result at least 14 days following the completion of any COVID-19 vaccine series. Vaccine breakthrough cases remain rare. 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.

In May, there were 16,097 cases of COVID-19; 98% of these cases were unvaccinated¹.

The median age of breakthrough cases is 51 years and 30% have occurred in individuals older than 65. These cases have been reported in 33 counties and all health care preparedness regions (Figure 1). Of the 1,009 reported vaccine breakthrough cases, approximately 10% (n=101) were observed in individuals who reside in long-term care facilities or other congregate care settings.

Figure 1. COVID-19 vaccine breakthrough cases by health care preparedness region

Region 1	442
Region 2	196
Region 3	119
Region 5	68
Region 6	21
Region 7	133
Region 9	30

¹ Unvaccinated proportion includes partially vaccinated individuals.

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The majority of vaccine breakthrough infections are asymptomatic, mild or moderate, and do not require hospitalization or result in death. To date, fewer than 10% of all vaccine breakthrough cases (n=95) have been hospitalized within two weeks of their positive test results and approximately 2% have died (n=20). The majority of vaccine-breakthrough-associated deaths have occurred in the elderly. The median age of the individuals who have died is 75 (range: 58—98 years). OHA is not reporting the regions in which the deaths took place.

In May, there were 126 COVID-19-associated deaths²; 91% of these deaths were in unvaccinated individuals.

All FDA authorized COVID-19 vaccines work exceptionally well to prevent infection from all variants of COVID-19, including variants of concern and variants of interest. To date, 70 breakthrough cases have been associated with variants of concern—B.1.1.7 (n=28), B.1.429 (n=15), B.1.427 (n=13), B.1.351 (n=9), P.1 (n=5). Eleven breakthrough cases have been associated with a single variant of interest—B.1.526.

The number of vaccine breakthrough cases identified in Oregon remains very small when compared to the more than 1.85 million people who have completed their COVID-19 vaccination series. State and local epidemiologists at Oregon Health Authority will continue to track all vaccine breakthrough cases and issue monthly vaccine breakthrough reports. Vaccine breakthrough cases that result in hospitalization or death are also being reported to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

² Death data are provisional and subject to change.