

COVID-19 Monthly Report

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



July 1, 2021

OHA Releases Latest Monthly Update on Breakthrough Cases

Through June 30, Oregon Health Authority has identified 1,790 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 June, there were 7,241 cases of COVID-19; 92% of these cases were unvaccinated¹.

The median age of breakthrough cases is 53 years and 33% have occurred in individuals older than 65. These cases have been reported in 34 counties and all health care preparedness regions (Figure 1). Of the 1,790 reported vaccine breakthrough cases, approximately 10% (n=177) 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	794
Region 2	335
Region 3	214
Region 5	135
Region 6	29
Region 7	212
Region 9	71

The majority of vaccine breakthrough infections are asymptomatic, mild or moderate, and do not require hospitalization or result in death. To date, fewer than 11% of all vaccine breakthrough cases (n=191) have been hospitalized within two weeks of their positive test results and fewer than 2% have died (n=31). The majority of vaccine-breakthrough associated deaths have occurred in the elderly. The median age of the individuals who have died is 83 (range: 57–100 years). OHA is not reporting the regions in which the deaths took place.

¹Unvaccinated proportion includes partially vaccinated individuals.

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In June there were 63 COVID-19-associated deaths²; 94% 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 (Figure 2).

Figure 2. Breakthrough cases associated with variants of concern and interest.

Variant of concern	
B.1.1.7 (Alpha)	78
B.1.351 (Beta)	16
B.1.617.2 (Delta)	1
P.1 (Gamma)	21
Variant of Interest	
B.1.526 (Iota)	22
B.1.427/B.1.429 (Epsilon)	34

The number of vaccine breakthrough cases identified in Oregon remains very small when compared to the more than 2.1 million people who have completed their COVID-19 vaccination series. Community spread remains elevated in areas with lower rates of vaccination. As state restrictions are lifted, it is important to remember that vaccination remains the most effective tool to reduce the spread of illness within our communities.

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.

²Death data are provisional and subject to change.