

# COVID-19 Monthly Report

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



Correction: an additional five COVID-19-related death were found to have occurred in fully vaccinated individuals during the month of July. This has decreased the proportion of COVID-19-related deaths occurring in unvaccinated individuals from 91% to 82%. This change is not alarming as the proportion of vaccine breakthrough cases, hospitalizations and deaths will increase as disease transmission and the vaccination rate increase in the community. We apologize for the error.

August 5, 2021

## OHA Releases Latest Monthly Update on Vaccine Breakthrough Cases

**Through July 31<sup>st</sup>, Oregon Health Authority has identified 4,196 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 July, there were 12,514 cases of COVID-19; 81% of these cases were unvaccinated<sup>1</sup>.**

The median age of breakthrough cases is 51 years and 27% have occurred in individuals older than 65. These cases have been reported in 36 counties and all health care preparedness regions (Figure 1). Of the 4,196 reported vaccine breakthrough cases, approximately 7% (n=278) were observed in individuals who reside in long-term care facilities or other congregate care settings.

**Figure 1. Cumulative COVID-19 vaccine breakthrough cases by county**

County	Vaccine Breakthrough Case Count
Baker	15
Benton	83
Clackamas	395
Clatsop	19
Columbia	33
Coos	26
Crook	25

County	Vaccine Breakthrough Case Count
Harney	1-9
Hood River	30
Jackson	281
Jefferson	25
Josephine	98
Klamath	50
Lake	1-9

County	Vaccine Breakthrough Case Count
Morrow	21
Multnomah	855
Polk	65
Sherman	1-9
Tillamook	17
Umatilla	172
Union	21

<sup>1</sup>Unvaccinated proportion includes partially vaccinated individuals.

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Curry	10
Deschutes	257
Douglas	126
Gilliam	1-9
Grant	1-9

Lane	418
Lincoln	31
Linn	119
Malheur	16
Marion	365

Wallowa	1-9
Wasco	38
Washington	479
Wheeler	1-9
Yamhill	80

To date, 7% of all vaccine breakthrough cases (n=301) have been hospitalized within two weeks of their positive test results and 1% have died (n=42). The majority of vaccine-breakthrough associated deaths have occurred in the elderly. The median age of the individuals who have died is 83 (range: 49—100 years). OHA is not reporting the regions in which the deaths took place.

**In July there were 55 COVID-19-associated deaths<sup>2</sup>; 82% (n=45) of these deaths were in unvaccinated individuals.**

**All FDA authorized COVID-19 vaccines work exceptionally well to prevent severe 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.**

<b>Variant of concern</b>	
B.1.1.7 (Alpha)	132
B.1.351 (Beta)	16
B.1.617.2/AY.2 (Delta)	73
P.1 (Gamma)	42
<b>Variant of Interest</b>	
B.1.526 (Iota)	29
B.1.427/B.1.429 (Epsilon)	38

**Although the number of vaccine breakthrough cases is increasing, they are very small when compared to the more than 2.3 million people who have completed their COVID-19**

<sup>2</sup>Death data are provisional and subject to change.

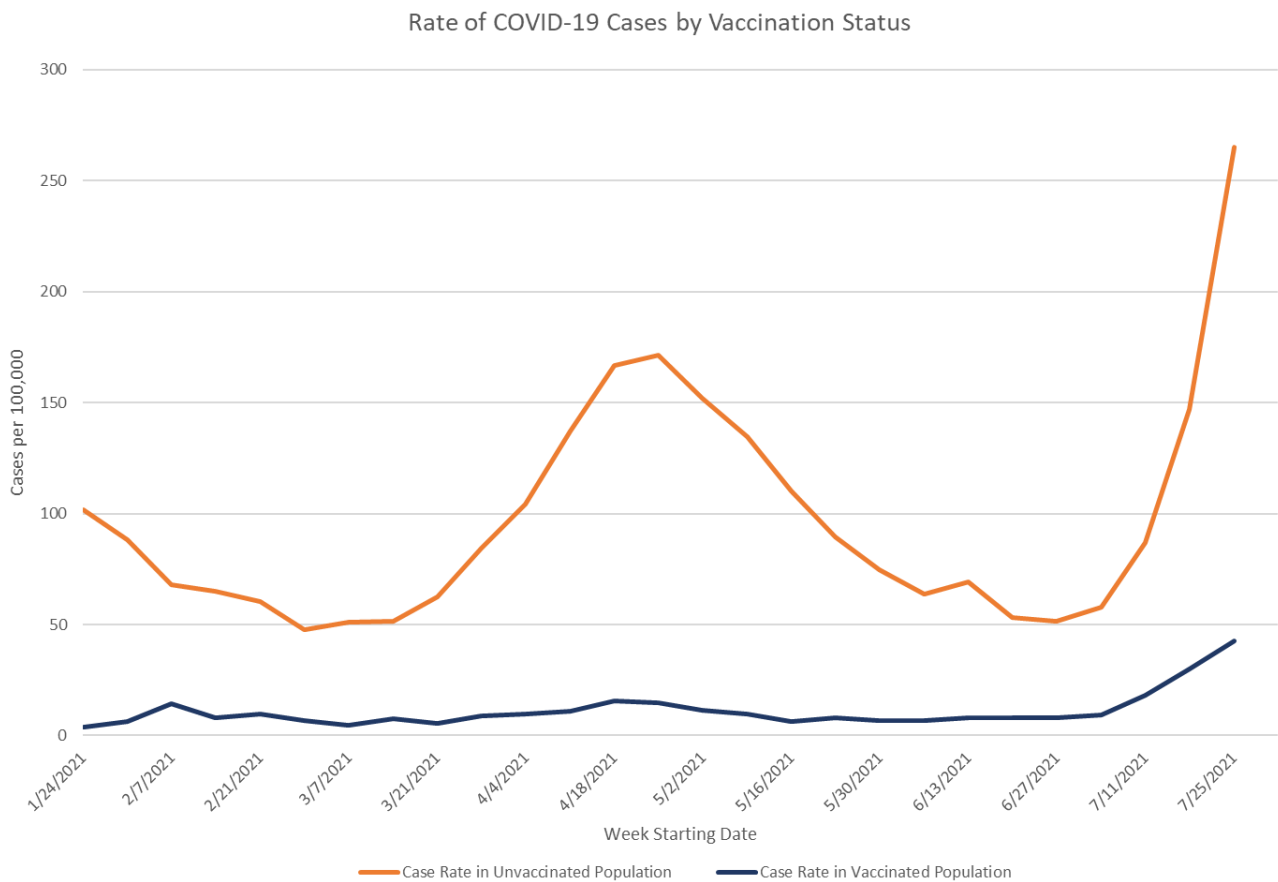
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**vaccination series.** As COVID-19 cases have increased across Oregon, vaccine breakthrough cases have also increased but at a much lower rate than in the unvaccinated. The rate of COVID-19 cases among unvaccinated individuals at the end of July is approximately five times the rate of COVID-19 cases among fully vaccinated individuals (Figure 3).

Figure 3. Rate of COVID-19 cases by vaccination status



Denominators for vaccinated population are the cumulative number of Oregonians that were fully vaccinated by week

Community spread remains elevated throughout the state and particularly high in areas with lower rates of vaccination. Vaccination remains the most effective tool to reduce the spread of COVID-19 within our communities.

<sup>1</sup>Unvaccinated proportion includes partially vaccinated individuals.

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State and local epidemiologists at Oregon Health Authority report all cases of COVID-19 to the CDC. Vaccine breakthrough cases will continue to be tracked and regular vaccine breakthrough reports will be issued. Vaccine breakthrough cases that result in hospitalization or death will have additional information reported to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

<sup>2</sup>Death data are provisional and subject to change.