

# Yakima County COVID-19 Trends Report

January 25, 2022 - January 31, 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 (WAIIS). 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 now become the dominant variant and is likely contributing 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.



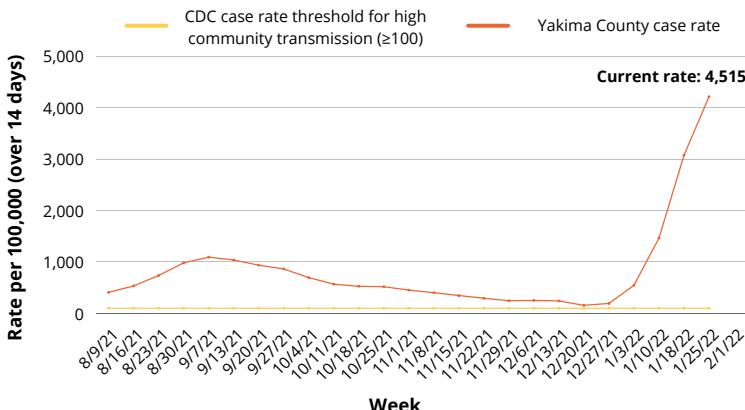
For additional COVID-19 data, visit:  
[www.yakimacounty.us/2404/Data-Summary](http://www.yakimacounty.us/2404/Data-Summary)

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## COVID-19 Cases

COVID-19 case rate by week,  
August 9, 2021 - February 1, 2022

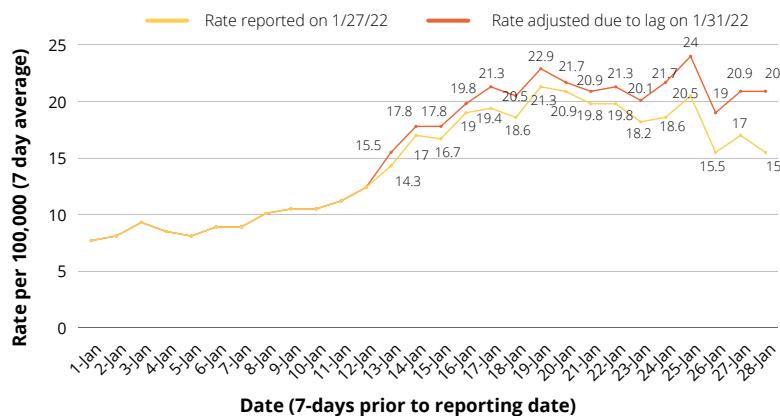


## Key Observations

COVID-19 cases in Yakima County remain at very high levels. Over the past week, the COVID-19 case rate increased from 4,214 cases per 100,000 residents to 4,515 cases per 100,000 residents. Another high mark in daily case counts was set on 1/28, with 1,381 cases reported in one day. As of 1/31, individuals 65 and older accounted for the highest proportion of cases during the month of January. However, individuals 0-19 continue to account for the majority (24%) of all confirmed cases in Yakima County.

## COVID-19 Hospitalizations

COVID-19 Hospitalization rate, 7-day average for past month, January 1, 2022 - January 28, 2022

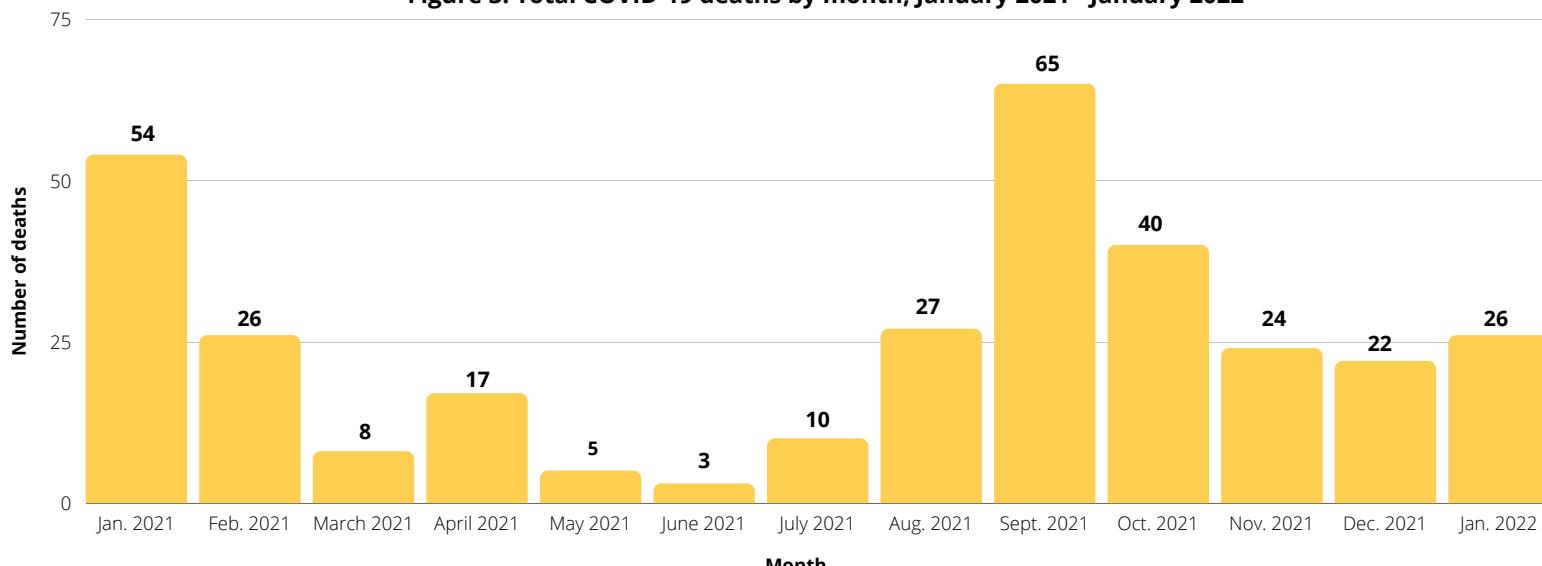


## Key Observations

Yakima County continues to see a high number of COVID-19 hospitalizations. Currently, there are a total of 74 hospitalizations, which is 11 more than the previous week. The 7-day average hospitalization rate based on data confirmed through 1/28 is 20.9 per 100,000 residents. Between December and January, hospitalizations increased the greatest among the 0-19 age group, particularly among those 5-11 years old. Nonetheless, hospitalizations remain the highest among individuals 65-79.

## COVID-19 Deaths

Figure 3. Total COVID-19 deaths by month, January 2021 - January 2022



## Key Observations

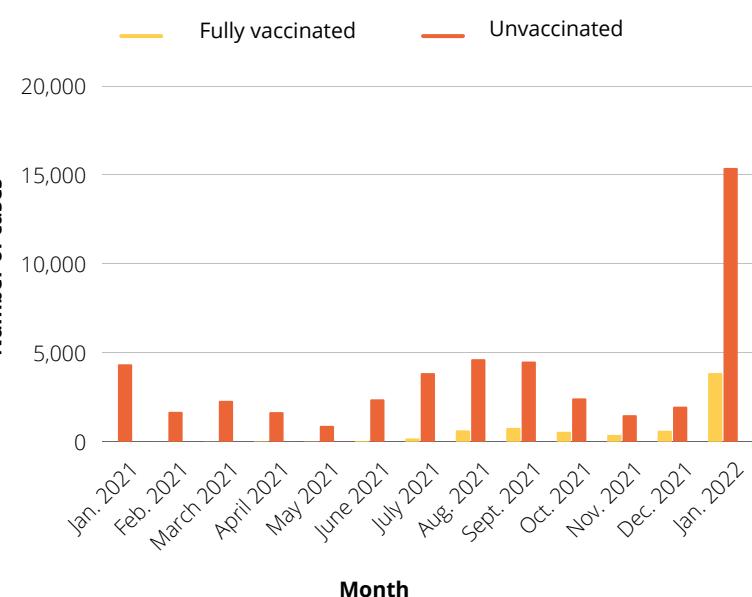
Between 1/25 and 1/31, there were 11 additional COVID-19 deaths reported in the month of January. Of these deaths, four were among individuals 80 and older, six were 65-79, and one 50-64. Individuals 65-79 and 80+ now account for the highest number of COVID-19 deaths in January. Consistent with previous months, the majority of COVID-19 deaths in January have been among unvaccinated individuals.

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## COVID-19 Breakthrough Cases

**Figure 4. COVID-19 cases by vaccination status, January, 2021 - January, 2022**



**Table 1. COVID-19 cases by vaccination status, January, 2021 - January, 2022**

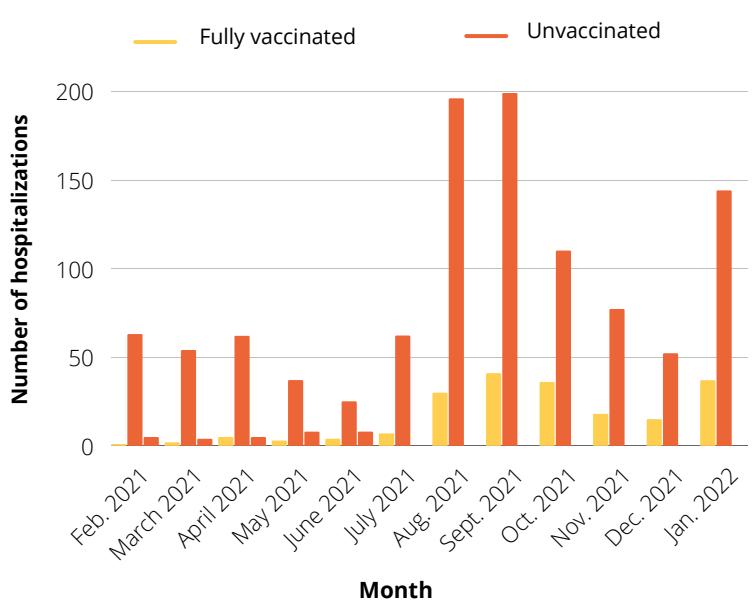
Month	Fully vaccinated	Unvaccinated	Total
Jan. 2021	1 (0%)	4,326 (100%)	4,327 (100%)
Feb. 2021	3 (0%)	1,655 (100%)	1,658 (100%)
March 2021	10 (0%)	2,276 (100%)	2,286 (100%)
April 2021	28 (2%)	1,645 (98%)	1,673 (100%)
May 2021	17 (2%)	873 (98%)	890 (100%)
June 2021	44 (2%)	2,356 (98%)	2,400 (100%)
July 2021	186 (5%)	3,830 (95%)	4,016 (100%)
Aug. 2021	639 (12%)	4,613 (88%)	5,252 (100%)
Sept. 2021	775 (15%)	4,480 (85%)	5,255 (100%)
Oct. 2021	556 (19%)	2,409 (81%)	2,965 (100%)
Nov. 2021	380 (21%)	1,465 (79%)	1,845 (100%)
Dec. 2021	613 (24%)	1,944 (76%)	2,557 (100%)
Jan. 2022	3,858 (20%)	15,366 (80%)	19,224 (100%)

## **Key Observations**

To date, there have been 7,110 breakthrough cases identified in Yakima County, with cases remaining the highest among the 39-49 year age ranges. Despite a large increase in breakthrough cases, COVID-19 cases have remained more common among unvaccinated individuals. In addition to getting vaccinated and receiving a booster dose, wearing a well-fitted mask, physical distancing, and getting tested for COVID-19 is still necessary to reduce community transmission and stay protected against COVID-19 infection.

## COVID-19 Breakthrough Cases and Hospitalizations

**Figure 5. COVID-19 Hospitalizations by COVID-19 Vaccination Status, February, 2021 - January, 2022**



**Table 2. COVID-19 Hospitalizations by COVID-19 Vaccination Status, February, 2021 - January, 2022**

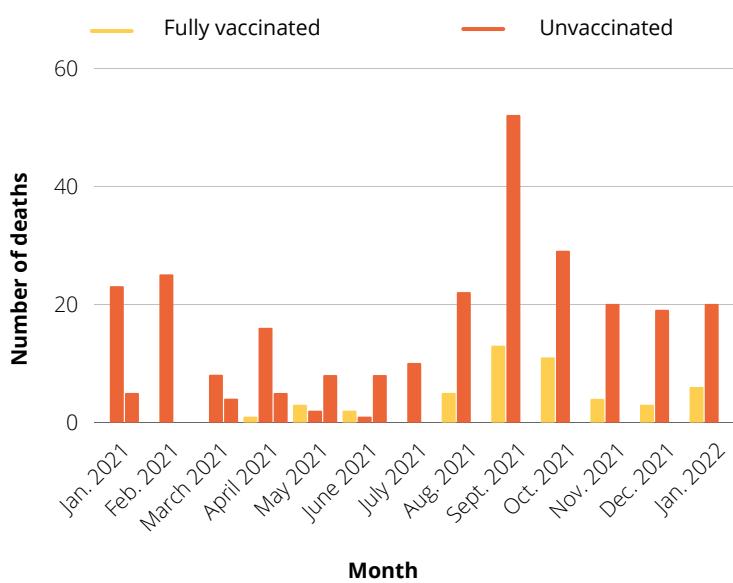
Month	Fully Vaccinated	Unvaccinated	Total
Feb. 2021	1 (2%)	63 (98%)	64 (100%)
March 2021	2 (4%)	54 (96%)	56 (100%)
April 2021	5 (7%)	62 (93%)	67 (100%)
May 2021	3 (8%)	37 (92%)	40 (100%)
June 2021	4 (14%)	25 (86%)	29 (100%)
July 2021	7 (10%)	62 (90%)	69 (100%)
Aug. 2021	30 (13%)	196 (87%)	226 (100%)
Sept. 2021	41 (17%)	199 (83%)	240 (100%)
Oct. 2021	36 (25%)	110 (75%)	146 (100%)
Nov. 2021	18 (19%)	77 (81%)	95 (100%)
Dec. 2021	15 (22%)	52 (78%)	67 (100%)
Jan. 2022	37 (20%)	144 (80%)	181 (100%)

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## COVID-19 Breakthrough Cases and Deaths

**Figure 6. COVID-19 Deaths by COVID-19 Vaccination Status, January 2021 - January 2022**



**Table 3. COVID-19 Deaths by COVID-19 Vaccination Status, January 2021 - January 2022**

Month	Fully vaccinated	Unvaccinated	Total
Jan. 2021	0 (0%)	23 (100%)	23 (100%)
Feb. 2021	0 (0%)	25 (100%)	25 (100%)
March 2021	0 (0%)	8 (100%)	8 (100%)
April 2021	1 (6%)	16 (94%)	17 (100%)
May 2021	3 (60%)	2 (40%)	5 (100%)
June 2021	2 (67%)	1 (33%)	3 (100%)
July 2021	0 (0%)	10 (100%)	10 (100%)
Aug. 2021	5 (19%)	22 (81%)	27 (100%)
Sept. 2021	13 (20%)	52 (80%)	65 (100%)
Oct. 2021	11 (27%)	29 (73%)	40 (100%)
Nov. 2021	4 (17%)	20 (83%)	24 (100%)
Dec. 2021	3 (14%)	19 (86%)	22 (100%)
Jan. 2022	6 (23%)	20 (77%)	26 (100%)

## Key Observations

To date, there have been 199 hospitalizations and 48 deaths among fully vaccinated individuals in Yakima County. Of those who died and were fully vaccinated, seven were 35-49, 17 were 60-79, and 24 were 80 and older. All of those who were fully vaccinated and died had underlying health conditions. While breakthrough cases have increased, COVID-19 hospitalizations and deaths among fully vaccinated individuals have remained relatively low, indicating that full vaccination continues to provide strong protection against severe illness and death. Currently, 63.3% of the total population has initiated vaccination while 56% has been fully vaccinated. Among those who have been fully vaccinated, only 18% have received their booster dose. The Yakima Health District recommends all eligible individuals get fully vaccinated and boosted as soon as possible.

## 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 the 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 **fully vaccinated individual** is someone who is  $\geq 14$  days post-completion of the primary series of a 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.