

# Yakima County COVID-19 Trends Report

April 5, 2022 - May 2, 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 (WAIS). 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 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:

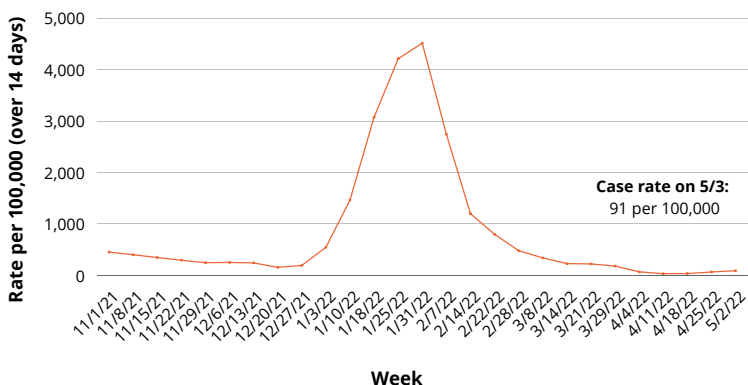
[www.yakimacounty.us/2404/Data-Summary](http://www.yakimacounty.us/2404/Data-Summary)

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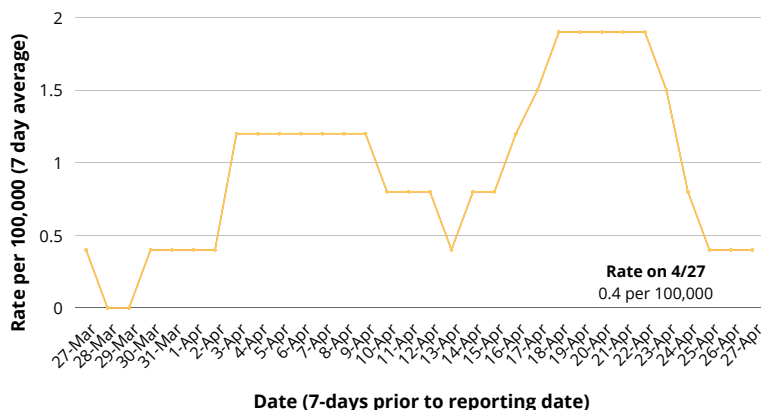
## COVID-19 Cases

COVID-19 case rate by week, November 1, 2021 - May 2, 2022



## COVID-19 Hospitalizations

COVID-19 Hospitalization rate, 7-day average for past month, March 27 - April 27, 2022



### Key Observations

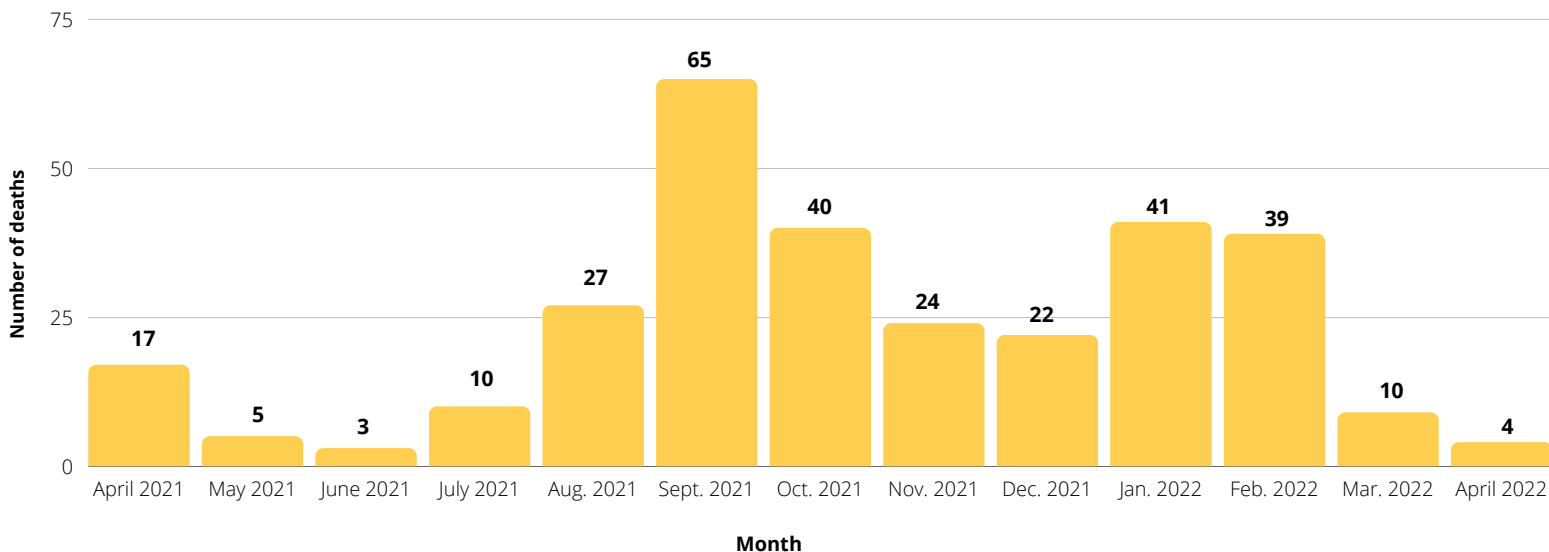
COVID-19 cases in Yakima County increased slightly during the middle of April. As of May 2nd, the COVID-19 case rate was 91 per 100,000. Compared to the case rate reported on April 4th (70 per 100,000), this represents an increase of 30%. Overall, COVID-19 cases in April remained lower than previous months. From April 1st to April 27th, a total of 223 COVID-19 cases were reported. This compares to 466 cases reported in March. According to the [CDC](#), Yakima County continues to be at a low community COVID-19 level.

### Key Observations

Similar to cases, COVID-19 hospitalizations increased slightly in April but remained relatively low throughout the month. As of April 27th, only 10 hospitalizations have been reported during this month. The 7-day hospitalization rate on April 27th was 0.4 per 100,000. In April, COVID-19 hospitalizations were also more evenly distributed among different age groups, with the same number of hospitalizations reported among the 20-34, 35-49, 50-64, and 80 and older age groups. Currently, there is only one person hospitalized due to COVID-19.

## COVID-19 Deaths

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



### Key Observations

COVID-19 deaths continued to decline in April, although at a lower rate than in March. As of April 27th, there have been four COVID-19 deaths reported in April so far. Of those who died, two were 65-79 and two were 80 and older.

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## COVID-19 Breakthrough Cases

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

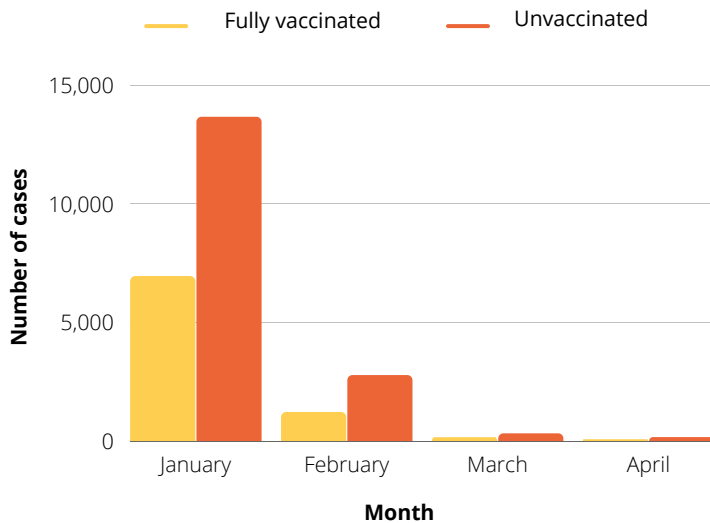


Table 1. COVID-19 cases by vaccination status, January - April 2022

Month	Fully Vaccinated	Unvaccinated	Total
January	7,323 (35%)	13,460 (65%)	20,783 (100%)
February	1,231 (30%)	2,860 (70%)	4,091 (100%)
March	154 (33%)	312 (67%)	466 (100%)
April	69 (31%)	154 (69%)	223 (100%)

### Key Observations

From January to April 27, 2022, there have been 8,777 breakthrough cases identified in Yakima County. To date, 80% of all COVID-19 cases have been among unvaccinated individuals (n=48,658) while 20% have been among fully vaccinated individuals (n=12,029). When counties are experiencing a low COVID-19 community level, the CDC recommends that everyone **stay up-to-date on their COVID-19 vaccination**, follow quarantine and isolation guidelines, and get tested for COVID-19 if experiencing symptoms or have been exposed to COVID-19. While indoor masking is only recommended during high COVID-19 community levels, individuals are also encouraged to consider **personal risk factors** when deciding when to wear a mask. Individuals should wear well-fitted masks that are **comfortable and provide the best personal protection**.

## COVID-19 Breakthrough Cases and Hospitalizations

Figure 5. COVID-19 Hospitalizations by COVID-19 Vaccination Status, January - April 2022

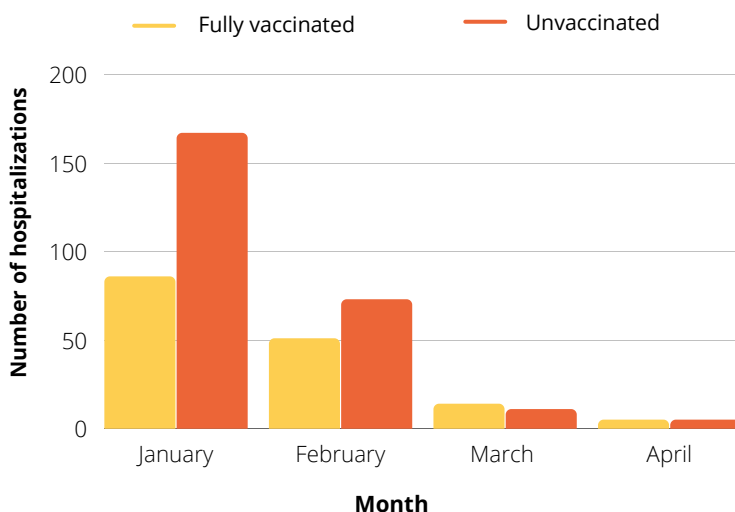


Table 2. COVID-19 Hospitalizations by COVID-19 Vaccination Status, January - April 2022

Month	Fully Vaccinated	Unvaccinated	Total
January	99 (35%)	181 (65%)	280 (100%)
February	52 (41%)	75 (59%)	127 (100%)
March	14 (56%)	11 (44%)	25 (100%)
April	5 (50%)	5 (50%)	10 (100%)

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## COVID-19 Breakthrough Cases and Deaths

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

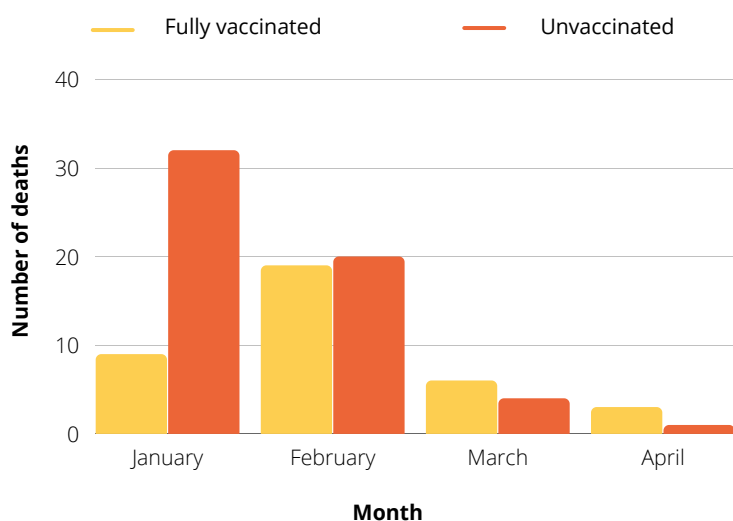


Table 3. COVID-19 Deaths by COVID-19 Vaccination Status, January - April 2022

Month	Fully Vaccinated	Unvaccinated	Total
January	9 (22%)	32 (78%)	41 (100%)
February	19 (49%)	20 (51%)	39 (100%)
March	6 (67%)	4 (33%)	10 (100%)
April	3 (75%)	1 (25%)	4 (100%)

### Key Observations

From January to April 27, 2022, there have been 170 hospitalizations and 41 deaths among fully vaccinated individuals in Yakima County. Since January 2021, 78% of all COVID-19 hospitalizations have been among unvaccinated individuals (n=1,187) while 21% have been among fully vaccinated individuals (n=313). Additionally, 78% of all COVID-19 deaths have been among unvaccinated individuals (n=291) while 22% have been among fully vaccinated individuals (n=80). Of those who were fully vaccinated and died, all had underlying health conditions while 89% have been 60 and older. While COVID-19 vaccination continues to protect most individuals, some individuals who are immunocompromised or at higher risk for COVID-19 should consider additional preventative measures for increased protection against COVID-19. This includes receiving all recommended booster doses, wearing a face mask, getting tested for COVID-19, and talking to their healthcare provider about available treatment options. **As of March 29, those 50 and older and those with certain underlying conditions may receive a second booster dose of either the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine four months after receiving their first booster dose.**

### 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 with 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.