

Yakima County COVID-19 Trends Report

May 2, 2022 - June 3, 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 has also contributed 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:

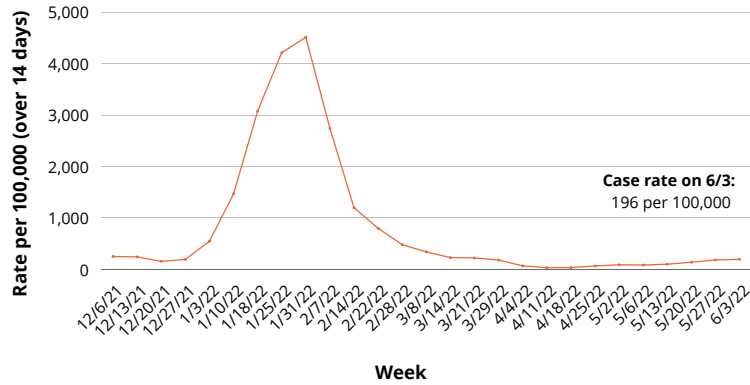
www.yakimacounty.us/2404/Data-Summary

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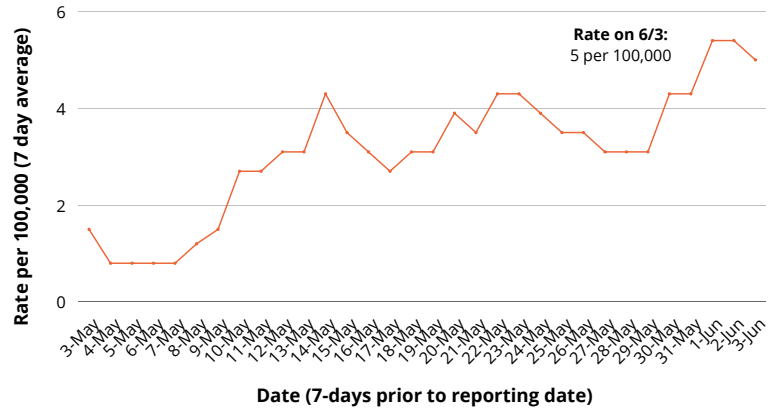
COVID-19 Cases

COVID-19 case rate by week, December 6, 2021 - June 3, 2022



COVID-19 Hospitalizations

COVID-19 Hospitalization rate, 7-day average for past month, May 3, 2022 - June 3, 2022



Key Observations

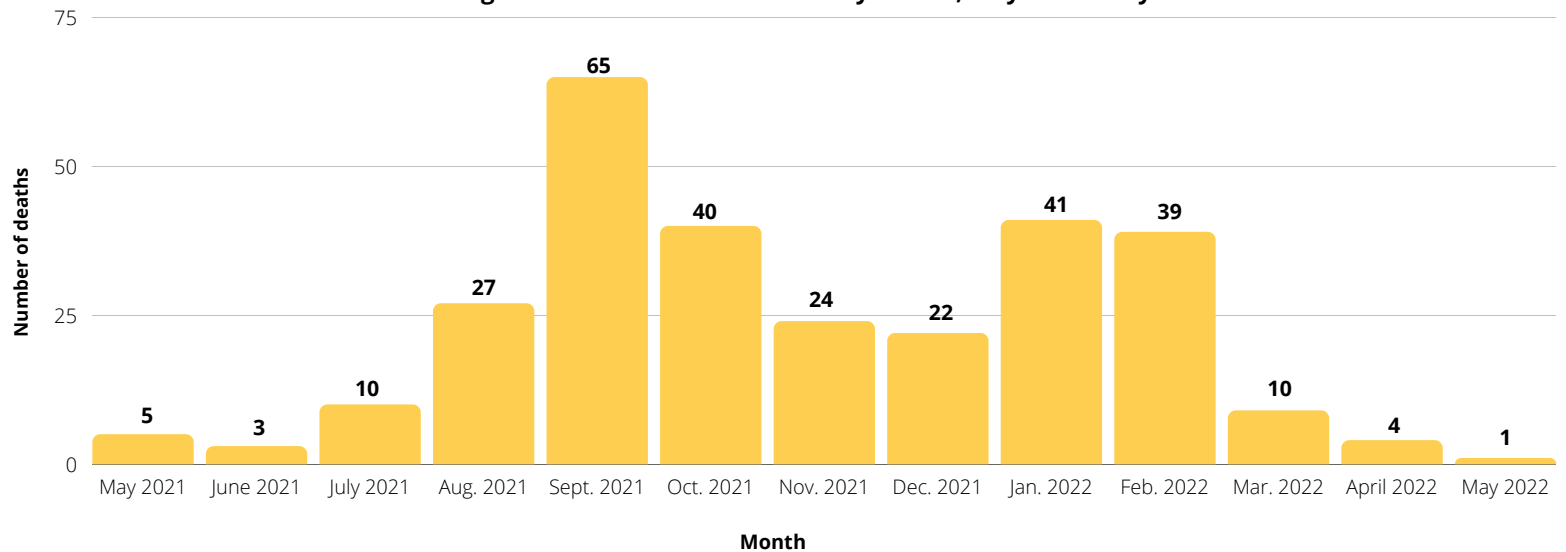
COVID-19 cases in Yakima County continued to increase over the month of May. On May 1, Yakima County reported a case rate of 87 cases per 100,000 residents. By the end of the month, the case rate had reached 188 cases per 100,000. The overall number of cases reported in May was 900. This compares to 388 cases reported in April. Due to the increased availability of at-home test kits and under-reporting of results, confirmed case counts may be under counted. Currently, Yakima County continues to be rated at a low COVID-19 community level by the [CDC](#).

Key Observations

Hospitalizations remained relatively low throughout April but began to increase during the beginning of May. The 7-day COVID-9 hospitalization rate was 1.5 per 100,000 on May 3 and by the end of the month it increased to 4.3. In May, the total number of hospitalizations was 38, which is 22 more than in April. Individuals 65 and older accounted for the highest proportion of hospitalizations while those 0-19 years of age accounted for the second highest number of hospitalizations.

COVID-19 Deaths

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



Key Observations

The number of COVID-19 deaths reported in April remained unchanged since the last report, with zero new COVID-19 deaths reported from mid-April to mid-May. The overall downward trend in deaths observed since late February has carried into May, with one death reported among the 80 and older age group during this month thus far.

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COVID-19 Breakthrough Cases

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

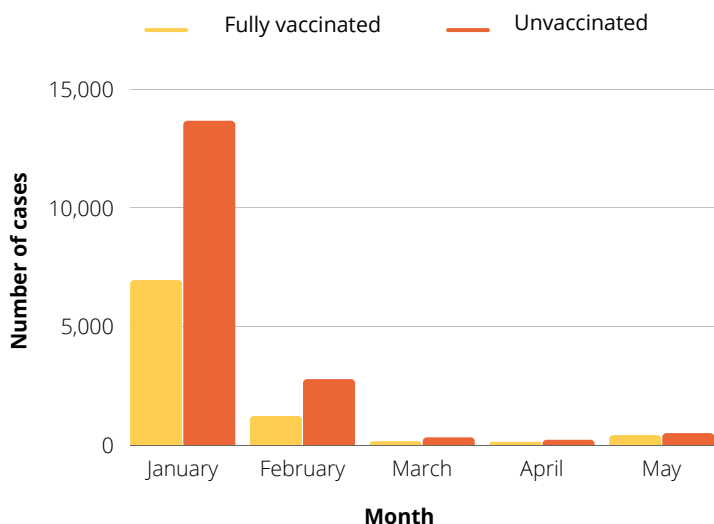


Table 1. COVID-19 cases by vaccination status, January - May 2022

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	128 (38%)	210 (62%)	338 (100%)
May	409 (45%)	491 (55%)	900 (100%)

Key Observations

Breakthrough cases increased in May, likely due to the overall increase in cases observed throughout Yakima County. Although Yakima County's COVID-19 community level remains low, community members should be aware of increasing trends and take steps to prevent further increases such as following appropriate isolation and quarantine requirements and getting tested for COVID-19 if symptomatic or exposed to COVID-19. Individuals who test positive through an at-home test kit should report their results to the Washington State COVID-19 hotline at 1-800-525-0127. People who are immunocompromised or at high risk for COVID-19, should utilize at-home test kits and talk to their healthcare provider about available treatment options. All individuals are encouraged to consider **personal risk factors** when deciding when to wear a face mask.

COVID-19 Breakthrough Hospitalizations

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

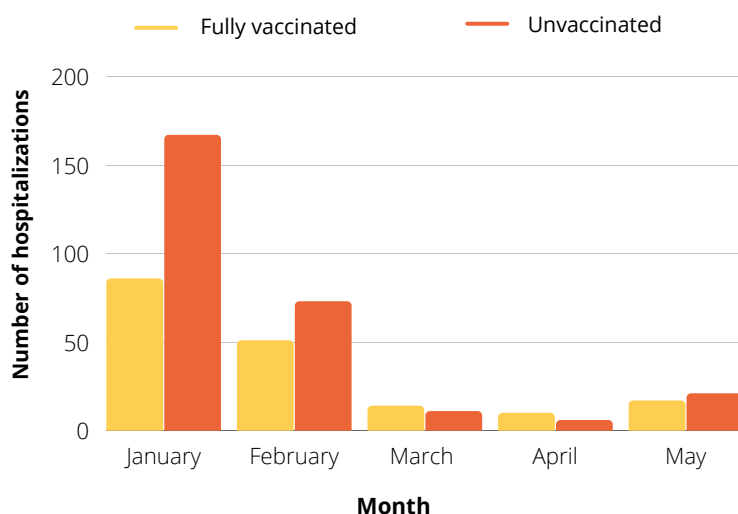


Table 2. COVID-19 Hospitalizations by COVID-19 Vaccination Status, January - May 2022

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	10 (63%)	6 (38%)	10 (100%)
May	17 (45%)	21 (55%)	38 (100%)

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COVID-19 Breakthrough Deaths

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

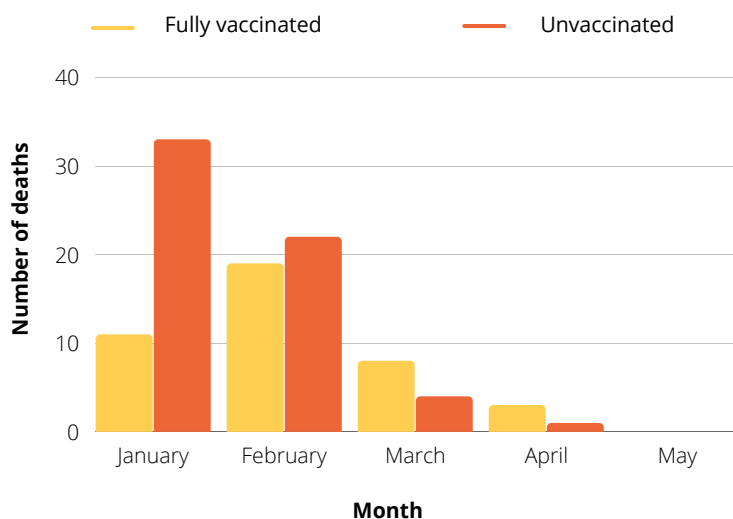


Table 3. COVID-19 Deaths by COVID-19 Vaccination Status, January - May 2022

Month	Fully Vaccinated	Unvaccinated	Total
January	11 (25%)	33 (75%)	44 (100%)
February	19 (46%)	22 (54%)	41 (100%)
March	8 (67%)	4 (33%)	12 (100%)
April	3 (75%)	1 (25%)	4 (100%)
May	0 (0%)	1 (100%)	1 (100%)

Key Observations

In May, there were 17 hospitalizations and zero deaths among fully vaccinated individuals. **While vaccination continues to protect against COVID-19, people who are up-to-date on their COVID-19 vaccination continue to be better protected against severe illness and death.** As of June 4, 59.1% of Yakima County residents have completed their primary vaccination series while 45.3% of eligible residents have received a booster dose. **On May 19, the CDC expanded the eligibility of the COVID-19 vaccine booster dose to anyone 5 and older.** Adults 50 and older and certain immunocompromised individuals may also receive a second booster dose four months after their first booster dose. Additionally, people who received the Johnson & Johnson vaccine for both their primary and booster dose may receive a second booster of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine. More information on COVID-19 booster dose eligibility is available at [YakimaVaccines.org](https://www.yakimavaccines.org).

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 ≥ 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.