

Yakima County COVID-19 Trends Report

July 5, 2022 - August 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 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:

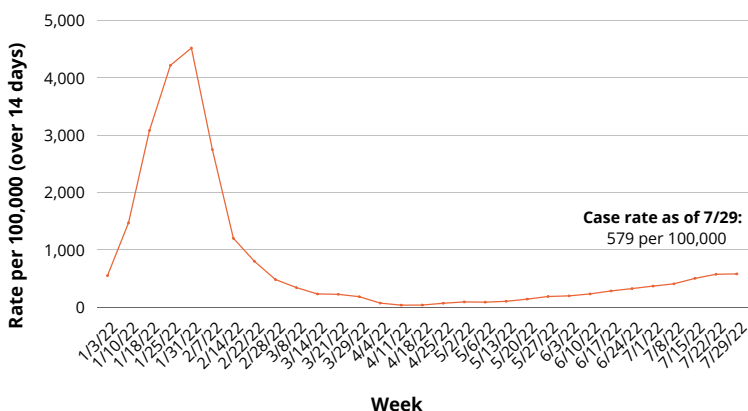
www.yakimacounty.us/2404/Data-Summary

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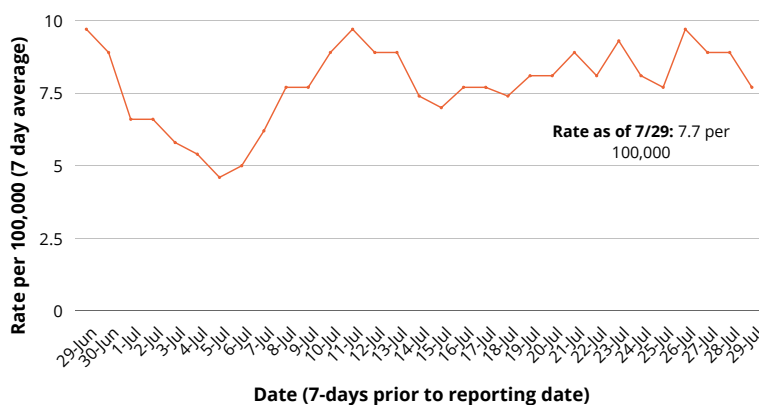
COVID-19 Cases

COVID-19 case rate by week, January 3, 2022 - July 29, 2022



COVID-19 Hospitalizations

COVID-19 Hospitalization rate, 7-day average for past month, June 29, 2022 - July 29, 2022



Key Observations

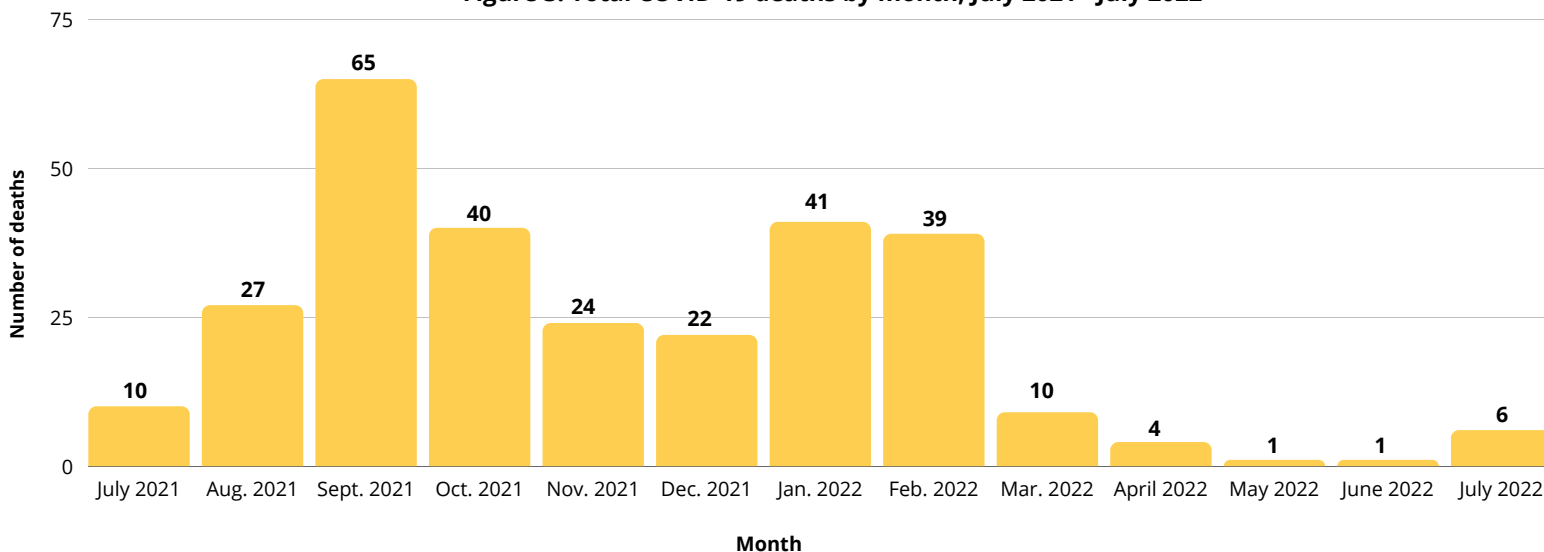
COVID-19 cases remained elevated in July, with the COVID-19 case rate climbing to 579 cases per 100,000 as of July 29. For reference, on July 1, Yakima County reported a case rate of 366 per 100,000. During the month of July, Yakima County also advanced into **CDC's "Medium" COVID-19 community level**. The last time Yakima County was classified at this level was in February. According to the latest **Department of Health Sequencing and Variants Report**, the BA.5 variant is now the most common variant detected in sequenced COVID-19 specimens in Washington State.

Key Observations

The number of COVID-19 hospitalizations continued to increase in July, with a total of 79 hospitalizations reported during this month. This is 12 more hospitalizations than June. The 7-day hospitalization rate was recorded at 6.1 on July 1, but then increased to 7.7 by July 29. Hospitalizations during the month of July continued to be more common among those 65 and older, with those 80 and older representing the majority of hospitalizations.

COVID-19 Deaths

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



Key Observations

During July, COVID-19 deaths began to increase rapidly after remaining stable in May and June. Among the six COVID-19 deaths reported during the last month, four 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 - June 2022

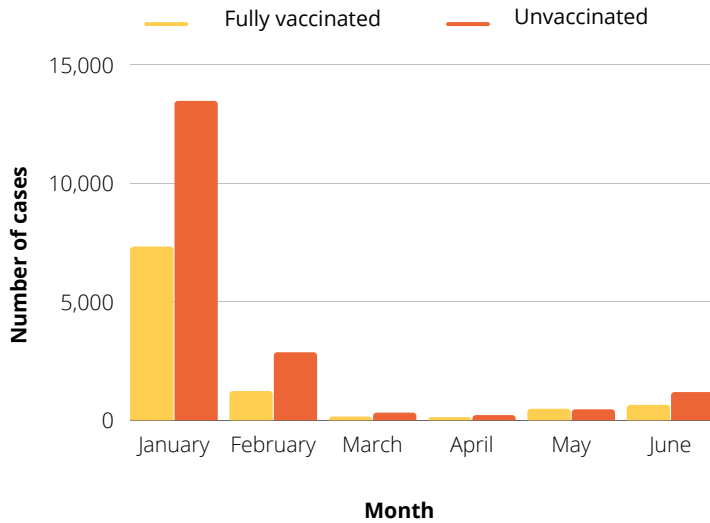


Table 1. COVID-19 cases by vaccination status, January - June 2022

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	477 (51%)	454 (49%)	900 (100%)
June	648 (38%)	1,052 (62%)	1,700 (100%)

Key Observations

Breakthrough case data is incomplete for the month of July and will be updated once it has been resolved. Yakima County is currently experiencing a medium COVID-19 community level, which means that everyone is encouraged to increase COVID-19 precautions to protect themselves and others. This includes staying up-to-date on your COVID-19 vaccination, getting tested for COVID-19 if you have symptoms or were exposed to someone with COVID-19, following isolation and quarantine requirements, and using at home test kits or face masks if around individuals at high risk for severe illness. High-risk individuals are also encouraged to wear face masks, have a plan for rapid testing, and talk to their healthcare provider about available treatment options. Free telehealth appointments for COVID-19 treatment are now available through the Washington State Department of Health [website](#) or by calling 1-800-525-0127.

COVID-19 Breakthrough Hospitalizations

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

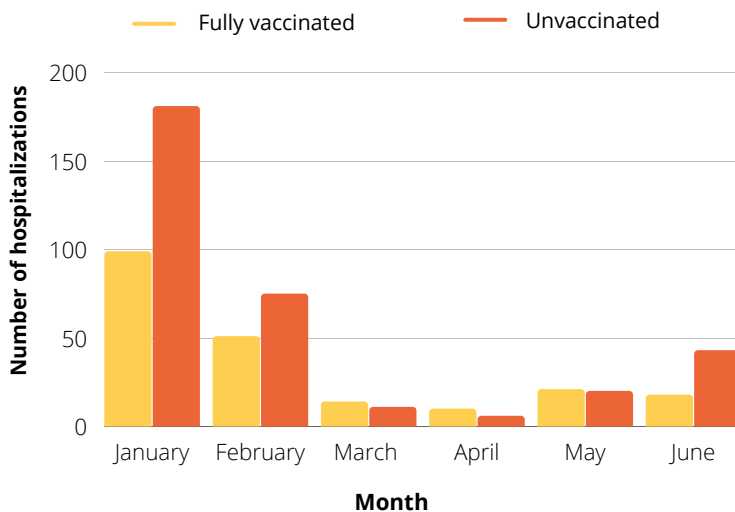


Table 2. COVID-19 Hospitalizations by COVID-19 Vaccination Status, January - June 2022

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	21 (53%)	19 (48%)	40 (100%)
June	18 (27%)	49 (73%)	67 (100%)

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COVID-19 Breakthrough Deaths

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

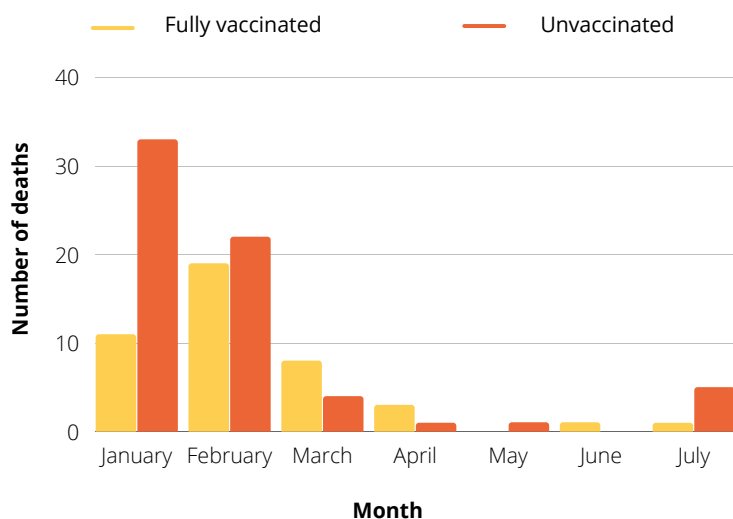


Table 3. COVID-19 Deaths by COVID-19 Vaccination Status, January - July 2022

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%)
June	1 (100%)	0 (0%)	1 (100%)
July	1 (17%)	5 (83%)	6 (100%)

Key Observations

Breakthrough hospitalization data is incomplete for the month of July and will be updated once it has been resolved.

Based on internal data, the majority of COVID-19 deaths observed in July were among unvaccinated individuals. As of June 30, 59.2% of Yakima County residents have completed their primary vaccination series while 44.7% of eligible residents have received a booster dose. Currently, **anyone 6 months or older is able to receive their primary COVID-19 vaccination series while anyone 5 years and older is eligible to receive one booster dose.** Adults 50 and older and certain immunocompromised individuals may also receive a second booster dose as well as those who received the Johnson & Johnson vaccine for both their primary and booster dose. 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.