

# Yakima County COVID-19 Trends Report

October 4, 2022 - November 1, 2022

## Overview

The Yakima Health District is publishing this report monthly 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**
  - Omicron is currently the dominant COVID-19 variant in Washington state and has been found to spread more easily than earlier variants, including the Delta variant.
- COVID-19 vaccines, including booster doses, continue to prevent severe illness, hospitalization and death.
  - Compared to people who are up to date with their COVID-19 vaccinations, unvaccinated people are more likely to get COVID-19, much more likely to be hospitalized with COVID-19, and much more likely to die from COVID-19.
- **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.



For additional COVID-19 data, visit:

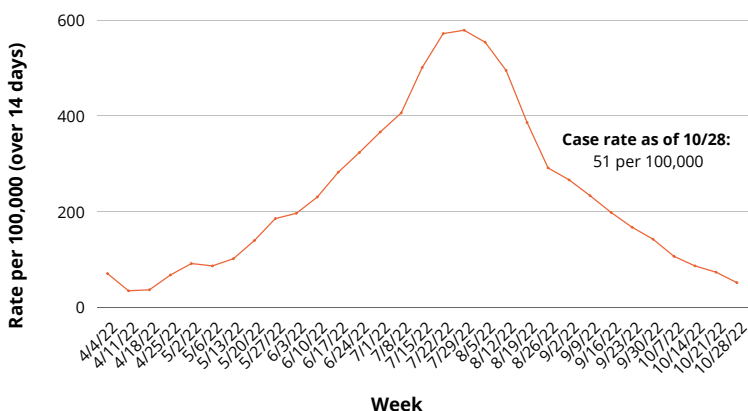
[www.yakimacounty.us/2404/Data-Summary](http://www.yakimacounty.us/2404/Data-Summary)

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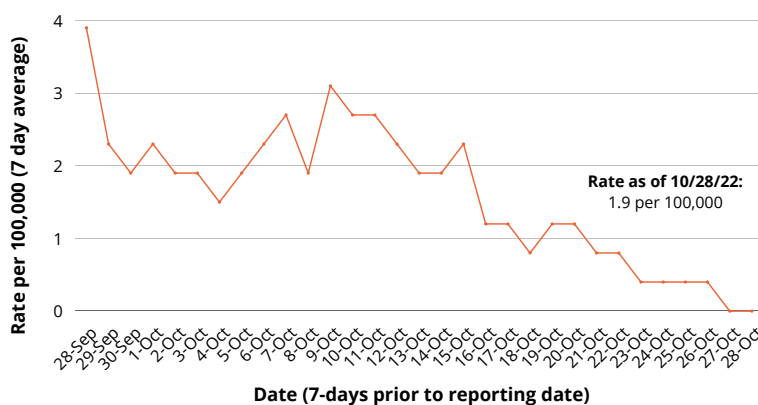
## COVID-19 Cases

COVID-19 case rate by week, April 4, 2022 - October 28, 2022



## COVID-19 Hospitalizations

COVID-19 Hospitalization rate, 7-day average for past month, September 28, 2022 - October 28, 2022



### Key Observations

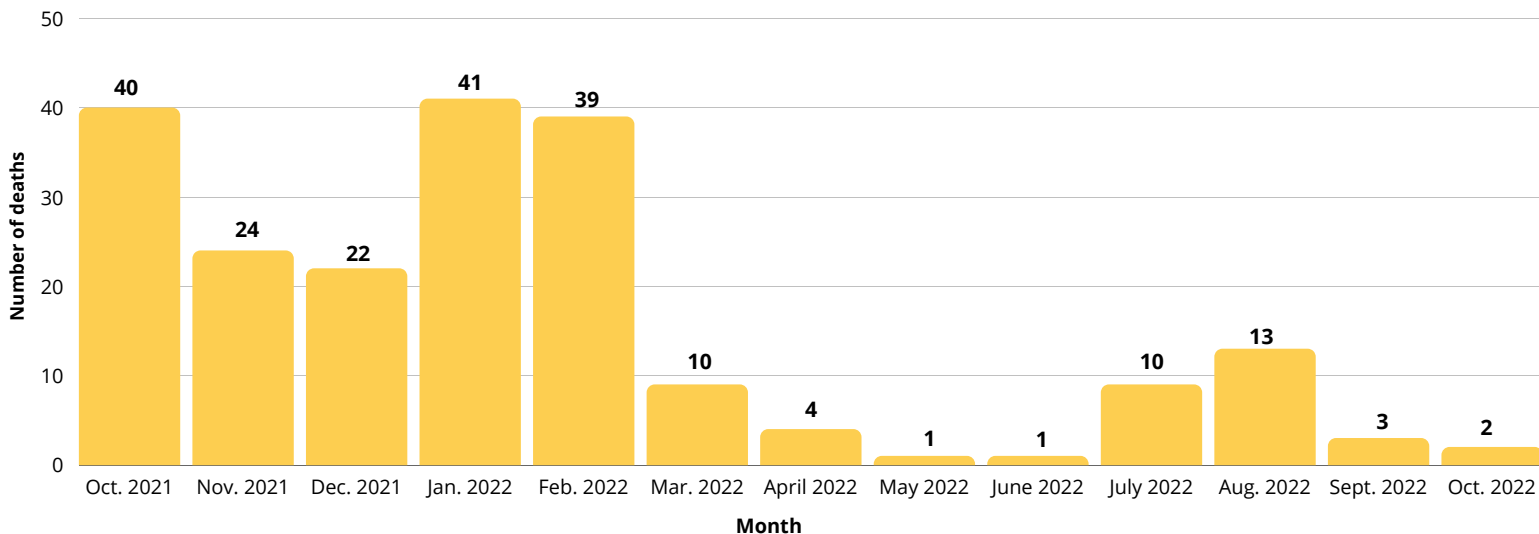
COVID-19 cases continue to decrease for the third consecutive month. As of October 28th, the 14-day case rate was 51 per 100,000, which is 64% lower than the case rate reported on September 30th. The Omicron BA.5 variant continues to be detected in the majority of new COVID-19 cases reported in Washington state. Unreported at-home test results are not included in this data. Currently, the CDC rates Yakima County at a low COVID-19 community level.

### Key Observations

COVID-19 hospitalizations continued to fall throughout October. As of October 28th, the 7-day hospitalization rate was 1.9 per 100,000. A total of 12 hospitalizations were reported this past month, compared to the 62 hospitalizations reported in September. Among those hospitalized, half were 65 and older.

## COVID-19 Deaths

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



### Key Observations

Yakima County reported two new COVID-19 deaths in October and one additional death in July and September. Of those who died, all were 65 and older.

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## COVID-19 Breakthrough Cases

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

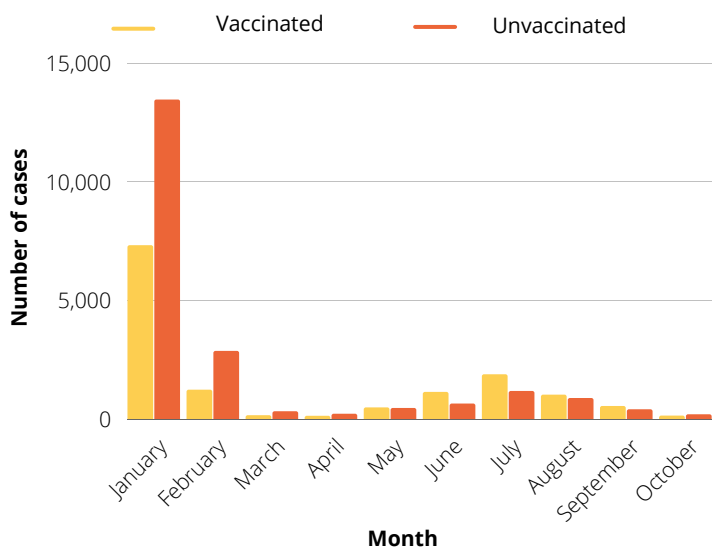


Table 1. COVID-19 cases by vaccination status, January - October 2022

Month	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	1,131 (64%)	645 (36%)	1,776 (100%)
July	1,874 (61%)	1,175 (39%)	3,049 (100%)
August	1,015 (54%)	875 (46%)	1,890 (100%)
September	537 (57%)	401 (43%)	938 (100%)
October	135 (42%)	187 (58%)	322 (100%)

### Key Observations

Breakthrough cases have decreased along with the overall decrease in COVID-19 cases. As winter approaches, everyone is encouraged to stay up-to-date on their COVID-19 vaccines, get tested if symptomatic, improve ventilation indoors, and follow isolation requirements if infected with COVID-19. Individuals who are at high risk of severe illness from COVID-19 should also talk with a healthcare provider about treatment and additional preventative options. The Washington State Department of Health continues to provide treatment and isolation resources for those who test positive for COVID-19. Contact the Department of Health's COVID-19 Hotline at 1-800-525-0127 for more information.

## COVID-19 Breakthrough Hospitalizations

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

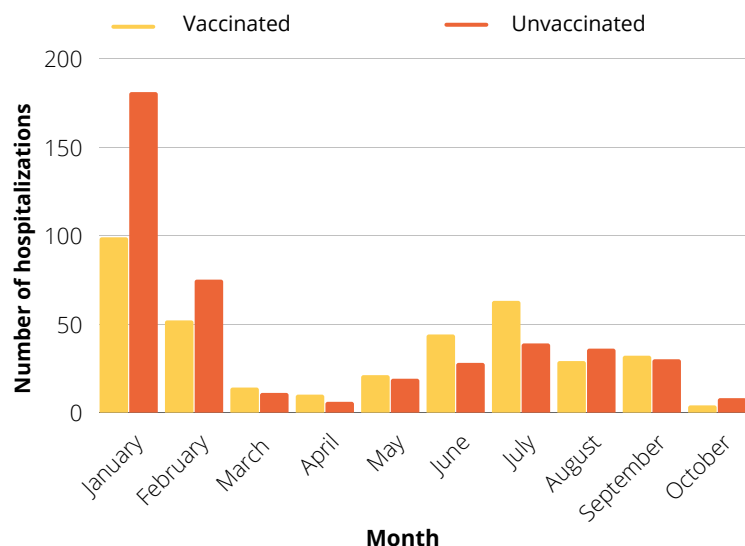


Table 2. COVID-19 Hospitalizations by COVID-19 Vaccination Status, January - October 2022

Month	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%)	16 (100%)
May	21 (53%)	19 (48%)	40 (100%)
June	44 (61%)	28 (39%)	72 (100%)
July	63 (62%)	39 (38%)	102 (100%)
August	29 (45%)	36 (55%)	65 (100%)
September	32 (52%)	30 (48%)	62 (100%)
October	4 (33%)	8 (67%)	12 (100%)

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## COVID-19 Breakthrough Deaths

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

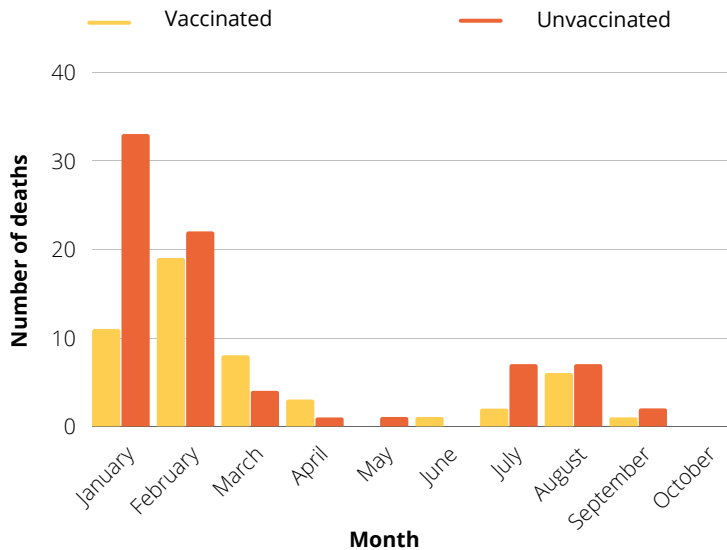


Table 3. COVID-19 Deaths by COVID-19 Vaccination Status, January - October 2022

Month	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	3 (30%)	7 (70%)	10 (100%)
August	6 (46%)	7 (54%)	13 (100%)
September	1 (33%)	2 (67%)	3 (100%)
October	1 (50%)	1 (50%)	2 (100%)

## Key Observations

COVID-19 hospitalizations and deaths among vaccinated individuals were low for the month of October. Community members should ensure they are up-to-date on their COVID-19 vaccination, including their primary series and any eligible booster doses. At this time, everyone age 5 and older is eligible to receive a bivalent booster two months after their last COVID-19 vaccine dose. The bivalent booster protects against the original COVID-19 virus as well as the Omicron BA.4 and BA.5 variants. Currently, only about 10% of eligible individuals in Yakima County have received a bivalent booster. Visit [YakimaVaccines.org](https://www.yakimavaccines.org) for information on where COVID-19 vaccines and booster doses are available.

## 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 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 **vaccinated individual** is someone who is  $\geq 14$  days post-completion of the COVID-19 vaccine primary series and a COVID-19 booster dose.
- An **unvaccinated individual** is someone who has not received an approved COVID-19 vaccine, or has not completed a COVID-19 vaccine primary series or booster.
- 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.