

# Yakima County COVID-19 Trends Report

December 9, 2022 - January 6, 2023

## 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 (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**
  - 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.



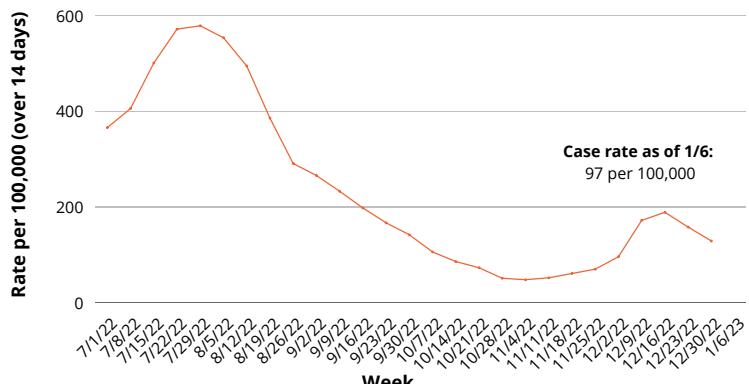
For additional COVID-19 data, visit:  
[www.yakimacounty.us/2404/Data-Summary](http://www.yakimacounty.us/2404/Data-Summary)

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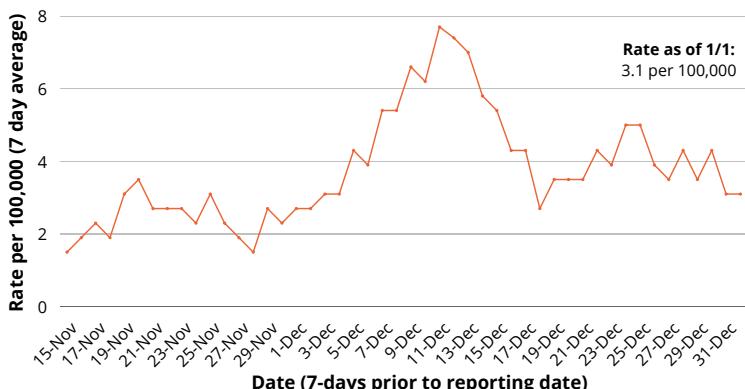
## COVID-19 Cases

COVID-19 case rate by week,  
July 1, 2022 - January 6, 2023



## COVID-19 Hospitalizations

COVID-19 Hospitalization rate, 7-day average for past month,  
November 15, 2022 - January 1, 2023



## **Key Observations**

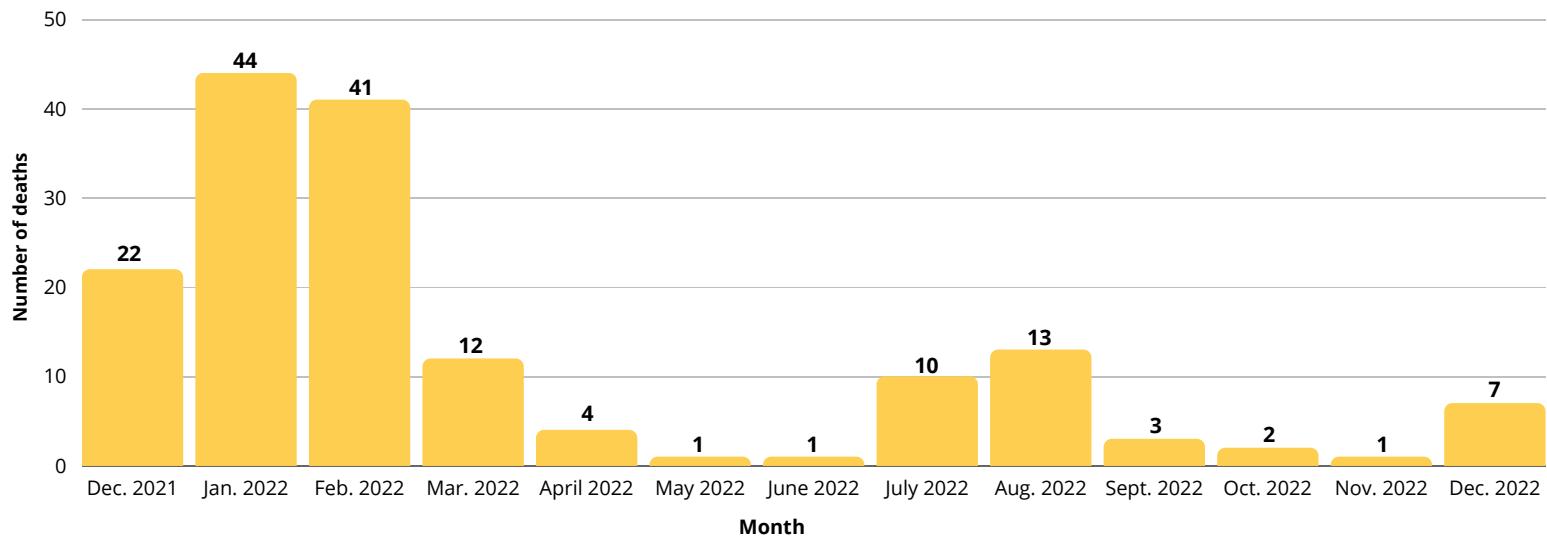
COVID-19 cases in Yakima County continued to rise for the month of December. A high mark in daily case counts for December was set on 12/18, with 516 cases reported in one day. The 14-day case rate for January 6th was 97 cases per 100,000. Omicron subvariants (BA.5. BQ.1.1, BQ.1) are the most dominant variants in the state. Although there is a increase in COVID-19 cases, results from at-home test kits continue to be largely unreported, and therefore cases may be undercounted. Currently, the CDC rates Yakima County at a low COVID-19 community level.

## **Key Observations**

Yakima County experienced a notable increase of COVID-19 hospitalizations throughout December. As of January 1st, the 7-day hospitalization rate for Yakima County was 3.1 hospitalizations per 100,000 residents, compared to the previous hospitalization rate of 2.3 reported on November 30th. In December, a total of 52 hospitalizations were reported, with 38 of these occurring in individuals aged 65 and older. There was also 1 hospitalization seen among the 0-11 age group in December. Due to a lag in data, the hospitalization rate is likely higher than 3.1 as of 1/6/2023.

## COVID-19 Deaths

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



## **Key Observations**

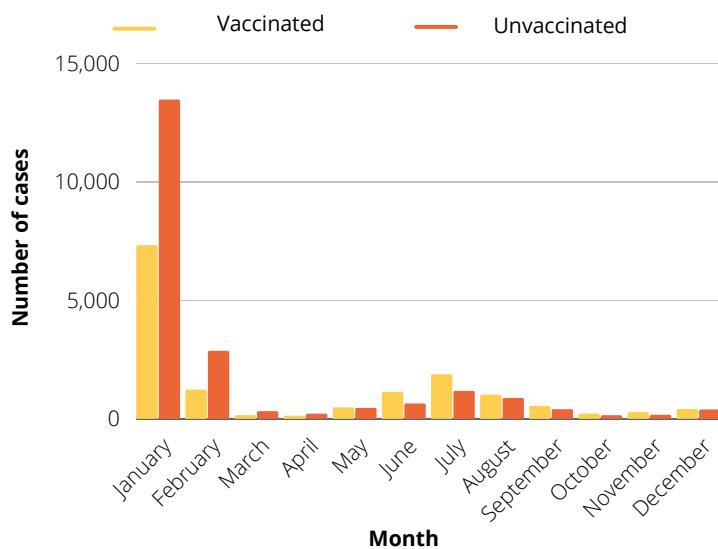
COVID-19 deaths rose significantly to 7 in the month of December after seeing a low number in the most recent months. The overall number of COVID-19 deaths in Yakima County is 753.

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## COVID-19 Breakthrough Cases

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



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

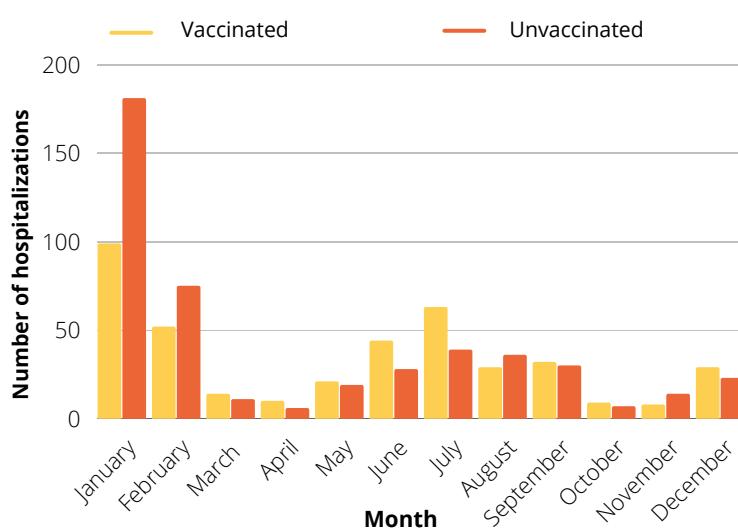
Month	Vaccinated	Unvaccinated	Total
January	7,323 (35%)	13,460 (65%)	20,783 (100%)
February	1,231 (30%)	2,860 (70%)	4,091 (100%)
March	154 (33%)	315 (67%)	469 (100%)
April	128 (38%)	210 (62%)	338 (100%)
May	477 (51%)	454 (49%)	931 (100%)
June	1,131 (64%)	645 (36%)	1,776 (100%)
July	1,874 (61%)	1,175 (39%)	3,049 (100%)
August	1,015 (54%)	875 (46%)	1,890 (100%)
September	537 (57%)	401 (43%)	938 (100%)
October	212 (59%)	148 (41%)	360 (100%)
November	276 (62%)	168 (38%)	444 (100%)
December	406 (51%)	388 (49%)	794 (100%)

## **Key Observations**

There has been an increase in the total number of cases over the last two months, with a 79% increase of cases from November to December. Of the 794 cases in December, 406 (51%) were vaccinated and 388 (49%) were unvaccinated. With this recent growth of COVID-19 cases, everyone is recommended to stay up-to-date on their COVID-19 vaccinations and get tested for COVID-19 if symptomatic. Additionally, with continuous spread of Flu and Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV), it is recommended to utilize additional prevention measures such as hand-washing, wearing a mask in crowded or poorly ventilated areas, and staying home when sick.

## COVID-19 Breakthrough Hospitalizations

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



**Table 2. COVID-19 Hospitalizations by COVID-19 Vaccination Status, January - December 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	9 (56%)	7 (44%)	16 (100%)
November	8 (36%)	14 (64%)	22 (100%)
December	29 (56%)	23 (44%)	52 (100%)

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## COVID-19 Breakthrough Deaths

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

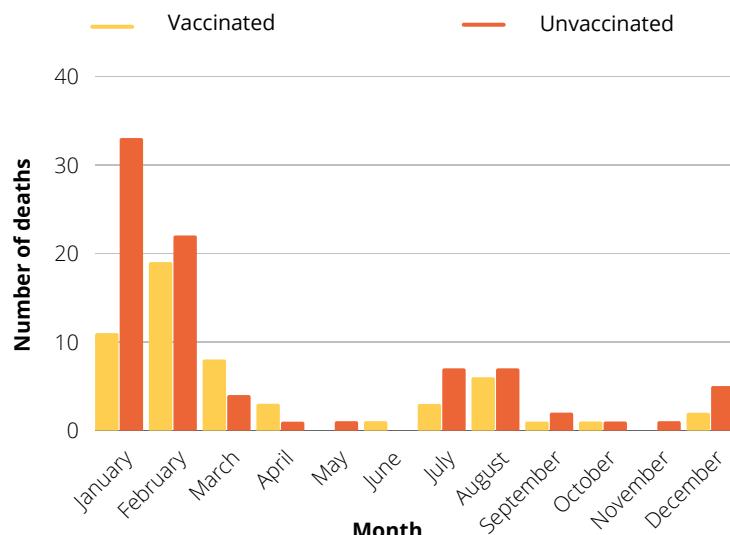


Table 3. COVID-19 Deaths by COVID-19 Vaccination Status, January - December 2022

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%)
November	0 (0%)	1 (100%)	1 (100%)
December	2 (29%)	5 (71%)	7 (100%)

## Key Observations

There is a significant increase in COVID-19 hospitalizations and deaths in December. The total COVID-19 hospitalizations increased by 81% from November to December among vaccinated and unvaccinated groups, although unvaccinated individuals make up for 71% of the total number of hospitalizations due to COVID-19. During December, COVID-19 deaths increased by 7, where 5 of those deaths occurred in unvaccinated individuals. The updated bivalent booster is now available for individuals ages 6 months and up and can be received two month 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. According to data from the Washington State Department of Health, only about 17% of eligible individuals in Yakima County have received a bivalent booster dose. Individuals are encouraged to visit [YakimaVaccines.org](https://YakimaVaccines.org) for information on where to find COVID-19 vaccines and booster doses.

## 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 **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.