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## What We Know about Vaccine Breakthrough Infections

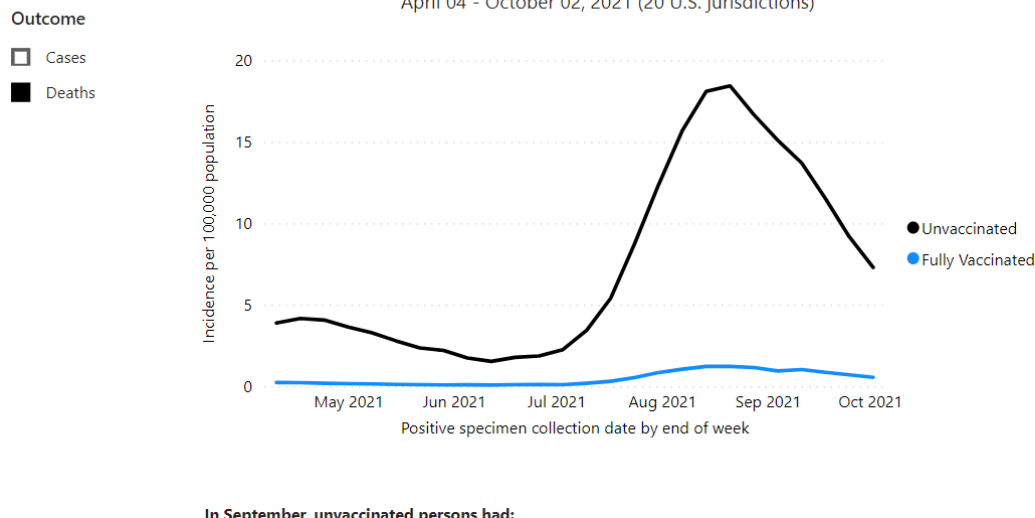
Vaccine breakthrough infections are expected. COVID-19 vaccines are effective at preventing most infections. However, like other vaccines, they are not 100% effective.

**Fully vaccinated people with a vaccine breakthrough infection are less likely to develop serious illness than those who are unvaccinated and get COVID-19.**

Even when fully vaccinated people develop symptoms, they tend to be less severe symptoms than in unvaccinated people. This means they are much less likely to be hospitalized or die than people who are not vaccinated.

People who get vaccine breakthrough infections can be contagious. Even if you are fully vaccinated, if you live in an area with substantial or high transmission of COVID-19, you – as well as your family and community – will be better protected if you wear a mask when you are in indoor public places.

So getting vaccinated (or boosted after six months) is still important, however, in addition, wearing your mask; and limiting in person gatherings indoors; and get tested regularly; and other safety precautions; are still needed to prevent breakthrough infections.



In September, unvaccinated persons had:

5.8X

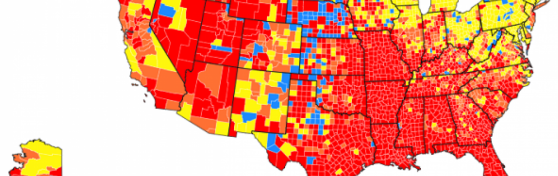
Risk of Testing Positive for COVID-19

AND

14X

Risk of Dying from COVID-19

compared to fully vaccinated persons



## COVID Data Tracker

CDC's home for COVID-19 data. Visualizations, graphs, and data in one easy-to-use website.

[covid.cdc.gov](https://covid.cdc.gov)

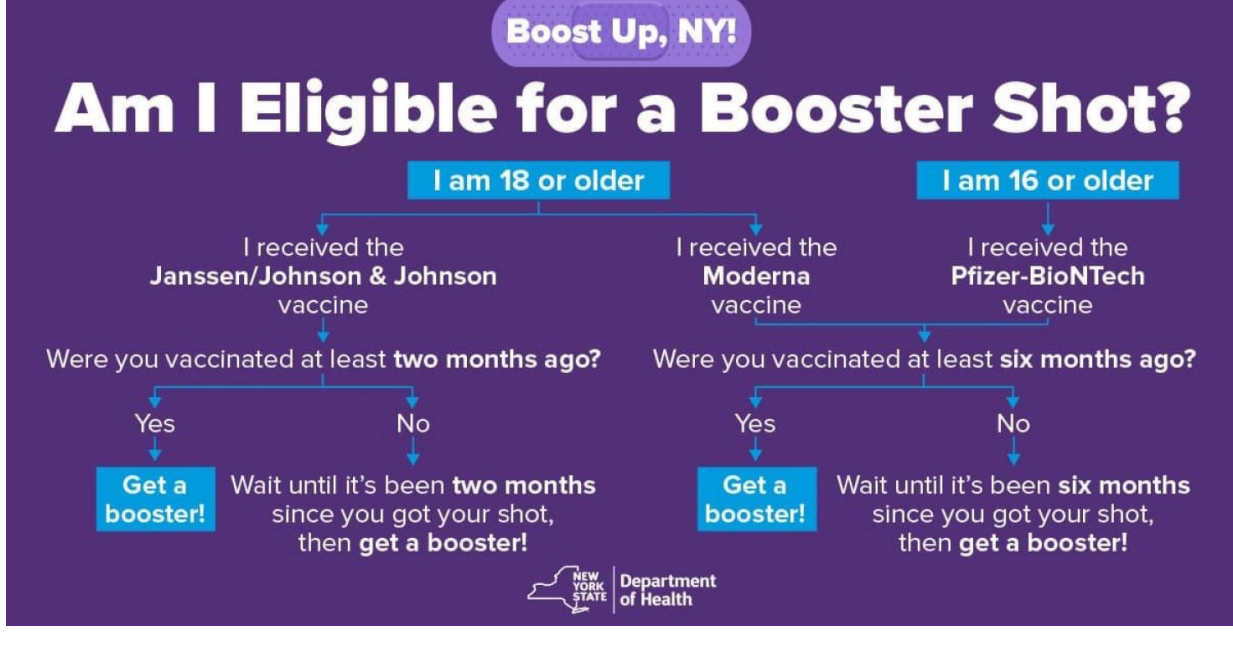
## Safely Celebrate This Holiday Season



## COVID-19 Boosters - Have You Had Your Booster?

Getting vaccinated is the first step. However, in order to continue to fight the virus, we need to get the Booster as often as is clinically recommended. Being six months without having a booster can reduce your immunity.

COVID-19 vaccines and boosters are offered free for people who are living in the U.S.—even those without health insurance! Take advantage and get your booster shot if eligible.



## NY Booster Doses Appointment Finder

Maximize your protection against COVID-19. Free booster shots are widely available statewide for eligible New Yorkers.

[covid19vaccine.health...](#)



## NEW JERSEY COVID-19 Information Hu

## NJ Vaccine Appointment Finder (Including Boosters)

Find and schedule a vaccine appointment at New Jersey vaccination locations near you.

All individuals aged 12 and older who live, work, or study in New Jersey are eligible for COVID-19 vaccines.

[covid19.nj.gov](#)

## Don't Forget - Mask Up! It's required!

OPWDD issued emergency regulations (14 NYCRR §633.26) requiring all agencies providing services or operating facilities that are certified or operated by OPWDD to require all staff, volunteers, contractors, vendors, visitors and individuals receiving services to wear appropriate face coverings consistent with any directives issued by OPWDD and consistent with guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), to slow the spread of COVID-19 and to protect the individuals served by OPWDD and OPWDD providers and the staff that support them. CDC guidelines, in accordance with OSHA standards, has clarified that cloth masks are not considered Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). **Surgical masks, KN95s and N95 are "typically cleared by the US Food and Drug Administration" and are the appropriate "masks/face coverings" to be used as PPE.**

**We have appropriate masks available, please reach out to your direct supervisor to coordinate getting these masks.**

**For NY Community Staff, you can visit our locations to pick up masks on the following days:**

**Bronx office Wednesdays 9am - 3pm**

**Floral Park office Thursdays 10am - 3pm**

**Staten Island office Wednesdays 10am - 2pm\*\***

**Manhattan office Fridays 10am - 2pm**

**\*\*\*New Staten Island Office Location - 800 Annadale Rd Staten Island NY 10312**

## Another WHY Story

I am thankful that I am vaccinated. I had breakthrough COVID in which I did have symptoms but did not have to go to the hospital. My symptoms reminded me of having the flu. But then I think about all of those who have died - over 800,000 - and I feel fortunate to not be in that number because I was vaccinated. As soon as I am eligible for the booster, I will get it. I think of this as a marathon and not a sprint. We need to remind ourselves that we are still at risk of getting COVID and do what is needed to reduce the spread. Get Vaccinated!

## New York Vaccination Incentive Payment

**DEADLINE EXTENDED TO JANUARY 14, 2022! It is not too late to get your vaccination if you have not done so already.**

CFS has been informed that New York State has received a new grant which includes a COVID 19 vaccination incentive payment, a longevity retention bonus and other types of bonuses.

All NY DSP employees who has been fully vaccinated with the COVID 19 vaccine by January 14, 2022 will be eligible to receive an incentive payment as described below. For those that may begin their vaccination regimen prior to November 30th you will be eligible to receive this bonus when fully vaccinated. Incentive payments will be made only if you provide proof of vaccination. You may send your COVID 19 vaccination card to HRvacstats@cfsny.org, our confidential HR email address.

Payments will be distributed as follows:

A payment of \$500 per employee who is employed on a full-time basis

A payment of \$250 per employee who is employed at least, but not less than 20 hours/week, and

A payment of \$125 for part-time employees who are employed less than 20 hours/week.

Please be advised the sooner that we are informed that you have received your vaccination, the sooner we can issue the incentive payment .

Regarding the incentive payments on the longevity, retention and other types of bonuses, we are currently awaiting on guidance. We will inform you as soon as we receive more information.

Once again, we want to say that we appreciate and thank you for your hard work and commitment. Any questions, please let me know.

Annis Valdez-Godek, SHRM-CP

Human Resources Director

## Send Us Your Vaccination Cards

We want to make sure we are properly counting the numbers of staff who are vaccinated. So if you have been vaccinated make sure to send a copy of your vaccine card to hrvacstats@cfsny.org.

As we receive information on additional mandates that will impact our workforce, we will share that information with you. However, in the meantime, join the millions of people and GET VACCINATED.

YOU WILL BE ENTERED INTO A RAFFLE AND A CHANCE TO WIN A \$100 GIFT CARD

## We Want to Hear From You!



WINNER OF THE \$100 GIFT CARD

Lorraine Thompson Best, NJ DSP



Special thanks to Arnaldo Giraldo for translating the newsletter into Spanish!

To reach out to our newsletter committee with any questions please contact Joanne Cropper [jcropper2@cfsny.org](mailto:jcropper2@cfsny.org), Donna Messina [dmessina@cfsny.org](mailto:dmessina@cfsny.org) or Linda Schellenberg [lschellenberg@cfsny.org](mailto:lschellenberg@cfsny.org)