

DSHS Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Vaccine Breakthrough Case Guidance



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

Texas Department of State Health Services

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Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) would like to learn as much as possible about possible vaccine breakthrough cases that result in hospitalization or death. With most vaccine breakthrough cases being asymptomatic or resulting in mild illnesses, the priority is being placed on identifying and gathering epidemiological information on the more clinically severe cases due to their clinical and public health importance. Beginning Monday June 14th, Public Health Jurisdictions should only submit vaccine breakthrough investigations and case report forms for vaccine breakthrough cases that result in hospitalization or fatality. Vaccine breakthrough investigation forms are no longer required for all other vaccine breakthrough cases. DSHS central office will continue to identify and characterize vaccine breakthrough cases using existing surveillance system infrastructure including Texas Health Trace and NBS. Individual reporters should notify their local public health jurisdiction of vaccine breakthrough cases that result in hospitalization or fatality.

Vaccine Breakthrough Case Definition

U.S. resident who has SARS-CoV-2 RNA or antigen detected on respiratory specimen collected ≥ 14 days after completing the primary series of an FDA authorized COVID-19 vaccine.

Exclusion Criteria

- 1) They received a COVID-19 vaccine that is not authorized or approved by FDA.
- 2) SARS-CoV-2 RNA or antigen detected on a respiratory specimen collected <45 days before the most recent positive test.

Cases of heightened public health interest

A vaccine breakthrough case among persons who are hospitalized or die within 2 weeks of their SARS-CoV-2 positive test or as a result of COVID-19 disease after being fully vaccinated.

Steps for reporting vaccine breakthrough hospitalizations/fatalities:

1. If a potential vaccine breakthrough case resulting in hospitalization or fatality is identified, please contact the laboratory and ask them to hold any residual specimens from the most recent positive test (respiratory specimen, RNA extract, or viral isolate) for WGS.
2. Local Health Departments (LHDs) may confirm vaccine breakthrough status, and once confirmed should notify their Public Health Region (PHR) with the completed the vaccine breakthrough case investigation form or csv template (recommended). PHRs should provide DSHS Central Office (EAIDU-coronavirus@dshs.texas.gov) with the completed the vaccine breakthrough case investigation form or csv template (recommended) for the previous week by Monday at 5pm.
3. If residual sample remains for a vaccine breakthrough case that resulted in hospitalization or fatality, LHDs or PHRs should submit it to the DSHS Austin Laboratory to send for sequencing at CDC. LHDs should request approval for sample submission from the PHRs before forwarding to the DSHS Austin lab. DSHS Central Office will email out sequencing submission information and forms to PHRs to arrange for CDC submission.