

Health Advisory: COVID-19 Vaccine Breakthrough Cases

Minnesota Department of Health, Tue, March 2 10:00 CST 2021

Action Steps

Local and tribal health department: Please forward to hospitals, clinics, urgent care centers, emergency departments, and convenience clinics in your jurisdiction.

Hospitals, clinics and other facilities: Please forward to occupational health and employee health leadership, infection preventionists, infectious disease physicians, emergency department staff, hospitalists, primary care clinicians, and all other health care providers who might see patients with COVID-19.

Health care providers:

- Identify Minnesota residents who have a respiratory specimen positive for SARS-CoV-2 by RNA or antigen test, with symptom onset (or specimen collection date if asymptomatic) \geq 14 days after completing the series of an FDA-authorized COVID-19 vaccine.
- Report cases that meet above criteria by one of two methods:
 - Calling MDH at 651-201-5414 (option 3) or
 - Through the case reporting portal at: [COVID-19 Patient Reporting Form](https://redcap-c19.web.health.state.mn.us/redcap/surveys/?s=9XMX7WKRTM)
<https://redcap-c19.web.health.state.mn.us/redcap/surveys/?s=9XMX7WKRTM>
- Report cases that meet the above criteria to [VAERS](https://vaers.hhs.gov/reportevent.html) at <https://vaers.hhs.gov/reportevent.html>.
- Submit residual serum to MDH only if residual serum was collected **after vaccination but before COVID-19 positive specimen collection**. This particular time point is requested by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. It is not necessary to obtain additional sera.

Background

MDH is investigating COVID-19 infections (symptomatic and asymptomatic) among people who are appropriately vaccinated with COVID-19 vaccine, also called vaccine breakthrough cases. This investigation will help MDH and CDC understand to what extent sub-optimal primary immune responses among specific groups, waning immunity, vaccine compromise, and viral mutations or variants may impact susceptibility to COVID-19 infection after vaccination. Transmission of SARS-CoV-2 from vaccine breakthrough cases is unknown and therefore isolation (separation from others) is recommended until 10 days have passed since symptom onset (or test date for asymptomatic cases), symptoms are improving, and patient has been afebrile for at least 24 hours, without fever reducing medication. Persons within 6 feet for 15 minutes or more of a vaccinated COVID-19 case are considered exposed and should refer to quarantine guidance to determine whether quarantine would be recommended for their specific situation ([MDH Quarantine Guidance for COVID-19](https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/quarguide.pdf), <https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/quarguide.pdf>).

Patients with a previous positive COVID-19 test within 90 days prior to the current positive test are not considered to have a vaccine breakthrough case and do not need to be reported.

For More Information

- [CDC: Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of mRNA COVID-19 Vaccines Currently Authorized in the United States](#)
- [MDH: Information for Confirmed Cases and Contacts](#)
- [CDC: Interim Guidance on Duration of Isolation and Precautions for Adults with COVID-19](#)
- [MDH: COVID-19 Recommendations for Health Care Workers](#)
- [MDH: COVID-19 Testing](#)
- Call MDH at 651-201-5414 or 877-676-5414

A copy of this HAN is available at: [MDH Health Alert Network](#)

The content of this message is intended for public health and health care personnel and response partners who have a need to know the information to perform their duties.