

What Are Vaccine Breakthrough Cases?

AUDIO DESCRIBED TRANSCRIPT

[A phone slides across the screen to reveal text that reads “What are vaccine breakthrough cases?”]

You’ve probably been hearing the term vaccine breakthrough cases, and you may be wondering what they are and what they mean.

[an illustration of the document appears, it says “COVID-19 Breakthrough Case”. Listed below it has “Fully Vaccinated” with a green check mark and “COVID-19 test results” with the word “positive” in red.]

Breakthrough cases happen when people who are fully vaccinated still test positive for COVID-19.

[an arrow draws pointing at the results. Text on screen reads “this is normal”]

This is normal. No vaccine is 100% effective.

The more people get vaccinated, the more we will see breakthrough cases.

[9 solid icons of people appear, one outlined icon of a person appears]

Let’s say in a group of ten people, nine people are vaccinated and one is not.

[a yellow wave of germs passes over the 10 icons. One solid icon, a vaccinated person, and the outlined icon, an unvaccinated person, turn yellow.]

All ten people are exposed to COVID-19, and two people test positive. One vaccinated and one unvaccinated.

[We zoom in on the two yellow people icons. Text appears. A fraction that reads 1 vaccinated person over 2 covid cases, one half of cases. The fraction changes to a percent, 50% of covid-19 cases are breakthrough cases.]

Even though half of the infections are breakthrough cases, it can be misleading because the other eight vaccinated people did not get sick from COVID-19.

[text on screen reads “8 of 10 people did not get sick” it changes to “The vaccines are working!”]

Even though breakthrough cases might happen more as variants circulate, fully vaccinated people are much less likely to get really sick or need hospitalization, so the vaccines are working!

[An illustration of a hospital appears and in the empty windows icons of people appear. Most of the windows are filled.]

This is extremely important to make sure hospitals have enough beds for everyone and people who need emergency care can find it quickly.

[Band aids appear and a wave of red hearts and blue thumbs up icons float past the band aids.]

Getting vaccinated is the best way to help protect yourself and the people around you from COVID-19.

[The MDH Logo and weblink www.health.state.mn.us appear]

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For more information on COVID-19, visit the Minnesota Department of Health's website.

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To obtain this information in a different format, call: 651-201-4989.