

## Breakthrough Cases

- **What is a COVID-19 vaccine “breakthrough” case?**

Breakthrough cases occur when a fully vaccinated person gets infected with COVID-19.

- **Are health officials surprised by breakthrough infections?**

No. A small number of such breakthrough cases are expected, and health officials say they’re not a cause for alarm. No vaccine provides 100 percent protection against infection, so breakthrough cases are not new or unique to COVID-19.

- **If I’m fully vaccinated and I still get COVID-19, does that mean my vaccine didn’t work?**

Not at all. Experts say vaccines are very good at reducing the severity of the illness. The main reason to get the vaccine is because it prevents severe illness, hospitalization and death.

- **How bad will a fully vaccinated person feel if they get COVID-19?**

Most people with breakthrough infections experience mild illness. Those who were not vaccinated make up nearly all hospitalizations and deaths from COVID-19.

- **Can a person with a breakthrough infection spread the virus?**

Yes, the CDC announced its revised recommendation on July 27, stating there is emerging evidence that vaccinated individuals can spread the Delta variant to some degree.

- **How can fully vaccinated people avoid becoming infected?**

While both doses of the vaccine continue to protect us from COVID-19, the best bet to boost protection against the Delta variant is to wear a mask.

- **How likely is it a vaccinated person will be hospitalized?**

Not very likely. The percent of fully vaccinated people in South Carolina who were hospitalized due to COVID-19 is .001 percent.

- **Why am I hearing more and more now about breakthrough cases?**

Health officials are watching for signs that breakthrough cases are rising. While our vaccines are still effective, initial studies show that they’re not quite as protective against the Delta variant. This could also signal that protection from the vaccines that were first delivered in December 2020 is fading and boosters are needed.

- **I am immunocompromised and have received both doses of the vaccine. How can I get a booster?**

Roper St. Francis Healthcare is now offering booster shots to immunocompromised patients at all five Express Care locations. The Centers for Disease Prevention and Control has updated its recommendations to say those who are moderately to severely immunocompromised should receive an additional dose of mRNA COVID-19 vaccine at least 28 days after their second dose of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine. We will be requiring these patients to present their vaccine card and to sign an attestation form that signals they are, in fact, an immunocompromised patient.