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**Update for 9/8/2021**

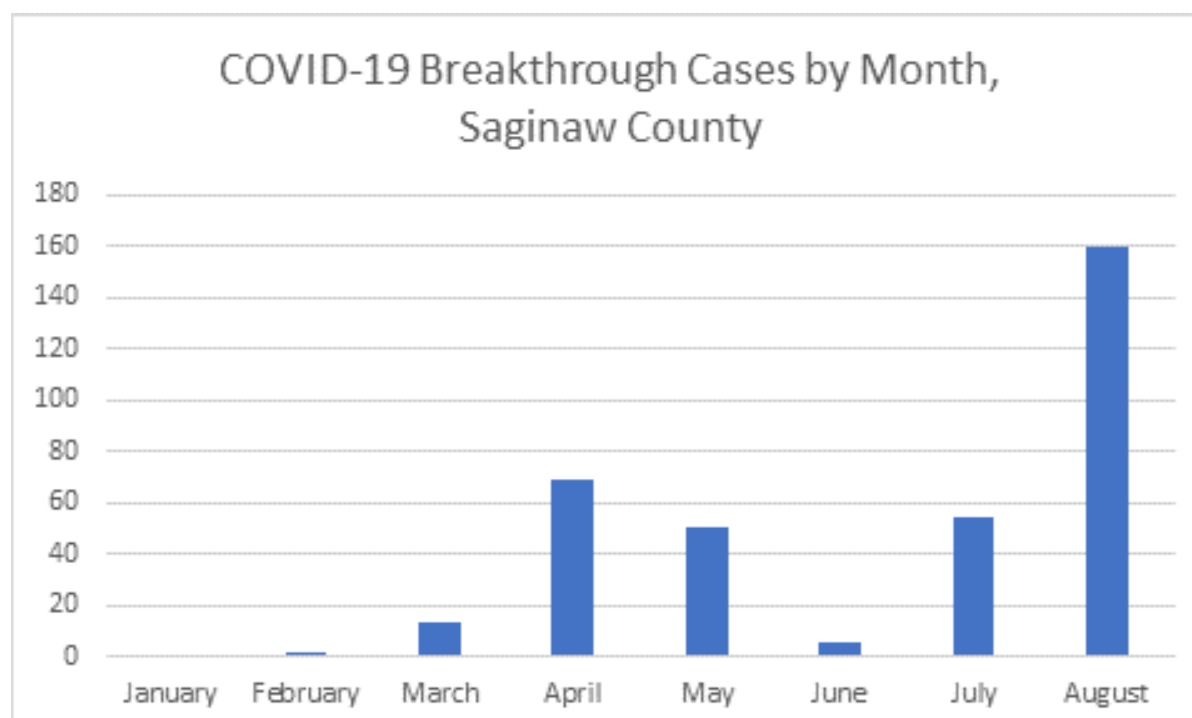
## **Breakthrough Case Information for Saginaw County**

"Breakthrough cases" are defined as individuals who have been fully vaccinated against COVID-19 yet test positive for the virus. And we're hearing a lot about them in the news.

The following provides information about breakthrough cases here locally.

Saginaw has recorded **355 total breakthrough cases from January 25- August 31**. Here's what we know:

- Breakthrough cases were 4.4% of all positive cases during that time period.
- At least 6% of breakthrough cases were hospitalized.
- At least 9% of breakthrough cases were asymptomatic.
- 7 deaths occurred – which makes up 4.3% of all COVID deaths reported during this time.
- August had 45% of all breakthrough cases identified, which makes up 16.5% of all cases for the month of August.



The reason for the increase in breakthrough cases in August is unclear. Experts point to the Delta variant, waning immunity from the vaccine, and increased transmission in areas with low vaccination rates. In Saginaw County, just under 53%

of residents are fully vaccinated.

We continue to advocate strongly for vaccination.

The CDC, U.S. Surgeon General and the FDA are now recommending booster shots for those who are fully vaccinated -- at least 8 months after receiving a second dose of the Pfizer and Moderna COVID-19 vaccine. This is to maximize the protection of these mRNA vaccines and to minimize breakthrough cases.

There is no booster yet for the Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

Planning is now underway in Saginaw County for booster shots, which Governor Whitmer says will be available in Michigan starting September 20 -- pending recommendation from the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP).

If you are unsure of the date of your second dose, you can now look it up in the Michigan Care Improvement Registry (MCIR). The portal can be found online at [www.michigan.gov/immunize](http://www.michigan.gov/immunize) or at [Michigan.gov/MilmmmsPortal](http://Michigan.gov/MilmmmsPortal) and is available on computers or smart devices.

We are encouraging everyone who is vaccinated to seek out a booster shot when eligible. Equally important, we are asking those who are not vaccinated yet to roll up their sleeves. Residents seeking Dose 1 and 2 will be welcomed at all Saginaw County Health Department booster shot clinics. We have plenty of doses to serve everyone.

As we all know, no one mitigation strategy -- including the vaccine -- is 100% effective in protecting us from COVID-19. We continue to recommend multiple strategies including vaccination, hand washing, and staying home when sick. In addition, we recommend mask wearing indoors at all times for unvaccinated residents (universal mask wearing indoors during times of high transmission), social distancing, and quarantine for close contacts.

Please follow us on Facebook for the schedule of our upcoming walk-in clinics. We pledge to keep you informed about booster shots and their pending approval.

## Answering FAQs

### **Q: What are schools required to report to the health department?**

A: Schools have a number of requirements, including:

- Making sure children are masked on buses.
- Isolating positive cases.
- Excluding symptomatic people from school.
- Posting probable and confirmed cases on their websites.
- Contact tracing and notifying close contacts of any positive cases.
- Reporting cases to the health department using a special [form](#) that gives us specific information for disease investigation.

### **Q: How long is quarantine if exposed as a close contact to someone COVID-19 positive?**

- 10 days without a test, or
- 7 days with a negative PCR test, or
- Serial antigen testing -- learn more [here](#).

### **Q: What is serial antigen testing?**

A: Serial antigen testing is an option for schools and businesses to keep exposed but healthy individuals in school or work. It requires rapid testing all school/work days

within the 10-day quarantine period (or 7-day with negative PCR test) for those who are symptom-free.

The testing protocols for this strategy are:

- People identified as close contacts are to be tested DAILY first thing in the morning at school or work.
- Students may ride the bus to school for this testing with continued mask wear.
- All close contacts that test negative can continue to attend work, school or extra-curricular activities while wearing masks indoors.
- Any close contacts that test positive must be isolated immediately and sent home for PCR confirmatory testing. PCR confirmatory testing is available at the Health Department Monday-Friday from 8:30 – 11:30 am.

The health department can help interested businesses with the process but kits will have to be purchased by the business.

We encourage you to refer to [www.mistartmap.info](http://www.mistartmap.info), the Saginaw County Health Department website at [www.saginawpublichealth.org](http://www.saginawpublichealth.org) and our [Facebook page](#). We continue to post timely information and videos to answer some of the most urgent questions we are receiving from partners and the public.

Be well. Stay home. Stay safe.

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Saginaw County  HEALTH DEPARTMENT



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