

From: Leclair, Cheryl (RIDOH)

Sent: Wednesday, September 15, 2021 6:32 AM

To: Michael Chippendale

Cc: Sen. de la Cruz, Jessica; Hytinen, Neil (RIDOH); Wendelken, Joseph (RIDOH); Bowman, Sarah (RIDOH); Lasher, Leanne (RIDOH); Bandy, Utpala (RIDOH); Swindal, Megan (RIDOH-Contractor)

Subject: FW: RE: Updated Data Request for RI DOH

Good morning again.

As promised per previous email, here is the customized data report you requested.

Please let us know if you have any questions.

Thanks so much.

From: Bowman, Sarah (RIDOH)

Sent: Tuesday, September 14, 2021 5:15 PM

To: Leclair, Cheryl (RIDOH); Wendelken, Joseph (RIDOH)

Cc: Hytinen, Neil (RIDOH); Bandy, Utpala (RIDOH); Lasher, Leanne (RIDOH)

Subject: RE: Updated Data Request for RI DOH

Good Afternoon Cheryl,

The team has prepared the same table we shared last month with COVID cases, hospitalizations and deaths for the month of August. Data notes are below, with additional information on the hospitalization definition in use. Please let me know if there are any questions.

Thank you,
Sarah

Data notes and additional context:

To reflect “first positive” vs. “prior infection” in the attached we are reporting **“first positives” and “repeat positive > 90 days”** There was initial confusion in responding to this request because we have not been reporting repeat positives as new cases to date based on the initial case guidance from the CDC. In practice however, anyone with a positive tests >90 days from an initial positive test was identified and received a call from the covid unit for a re-investigation. CDC has just recently updated the COVID-19 case definition and we will be identifying and reporting repeat positives as new cases starting next month in accordance with the new guidance. We have included repeat positive that occurred > 90 days from the initial positive here for historic reporting purposes.

To reflect vaccinated vs unvaccinated we have focused our reporting on whether or not these have been classified as **breakthrough cases**. A vaccine **breakthrough** case is a R.I. resident who has SARS-CoV2 RNA or antigen detected on respiratory specimen collected ≥ 14 days after completing the primary series of an FDA-authorized COVID-19 vaccine. Excluded are cases with SARS-CoV-2 RNA or antigen detected on a respiratory specimen collected <45 days before the most recent positive test.

The definition used by RIDOH for a **COVID-19 hospitalization** is an inpatient admission of a COVID-19 positive person. This definition captures people who are hospitalized because of COVID-19 and people who are admitted with unrelated injuries or illnesses (but who are COVID-19 positive). This definition is consistent with the COVID-19 hospitalization definition used by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and states throughout the region and country.

Counts of less than five have been suppressed per RIDOH's [Small Numbers Policy](#) due to privacy and reliability concerns. If we updated the tables with larger age bands there would be less suppression in most cases.

SARAH BOWMAN, MPH

COVID-19 || COVID QUANT TEAM

Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH)

Three Capitol Hill

Providence, RI 02908

Work Cell: (401) 328-4396

Website: www.health.ri.gov/covid

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