

From: Hytinen, Neil (RIDOH)

Sent: Tuesday, August 31, 2021 8:14 PM

To: Michael Chippendale <mike@repchip.com>; Sen. de la Cruz, Jessica <sen-delacruz@rilegislature.gov>

Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] : Updated Data Request for RI DOH

Good evening Whip Chippendale and Senator De La Cruz,

Attached please find data in response to your initial request for cases, hospitalizations and deaths by vaccine status, first vs repeat positive status and age for the month of July. The team has updated the structure of the tables to include separate tables for cases, hospitalizations and deaths. Below are just a few data notes we have also included in the attached along with the tables. We trust that this satisfies the spirit of the request, but please let me know if there are any issues with the format. 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.

Hospitalizations in the attached include anyone who was **hospitalized “with” or “because of”** COVID-19. At this point we are not able to distinguish between the two across the board, but are investigation additional options.

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.

In regard to the subsequent request for comorbidities information on cases I'm not sure we can fulfill the request for cases. Cases and hospitalizations are not reported with comorbidities. We may be able to look vital records data for comorbidities related to deaths but this will be a substantial lift. I have included Sarah Bowman and Megan Swindal from our data team who can speak more to the limitations of the data we collect. If you would like I can set up a time to chat in the next few days.

Best,

NPH