



ILA-USMX JOINT SAFETY COMMITTEE

# The Novel Coronavirus

## Workers and Employers Want to Know

**Q. Workers and employers have asked the ILA~USMX Joint Safety Committee (JSC):** *“Lately, I’ve been hearing a lot about “Breakthrough” cases, where apparently people who have been vaccinated against COVID-19 get infected anyway. What’s with that? [22 July 2021]*

A: Thus far, while the three FDA authorized COVID-19 vaccines have proven to be impressively effective, there have been individuals who (owing to organic/metabolic reasons) have received the vaccine but yet have become infected with the COVID-19 virus. When that rare circumstance occurs, it’s known as a **“breakthrough”** case.

Given that the vaccines are, on average, 95% effective, that leaves 5% of the vaccinated population susceptible to contract the viral infection. That’s a circumstance that’s quite natural and understandable. No vaccine is 100% effective.

In the vast majority of **“breakthrough”** cases, the vaccinated person experiences mild symptoms and recovers quickly.... But, for a variety of reasons, that’s not always the outcome.

Using New Jersey’s current experience<sup>1</sup>, of the **4,432,769** residents who were fully vaccinated **3,474** contracted COVID-19. Those are New Jersey’s **“breakthrough”** cases.

**84** of them required hospitalization. **31** of those **84** have died.

From a statistical perspective, that represents a **99.9993** vaccine effective rate.

In the light provided by the data above, the effectiveness of vaccination appears to be further supported. The JSC appreciates, however, that many of our constituents still question the wisdom of vaccination. That’s OK. Our interest, however, is in providing the information necessary for you to come to an informed decision (with the input and concurrence of your own health care provider).

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<sup>1</sup> We use New Jersey’s current data with the understanding that vaccination rates in that State are comparatively high at this point in time.

## Working Together For The Benefit Of All

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