

## **"A Message from the Inspector General: Update on Oversight Over Department of Justice COVID-19 Pandemic Response," August 2022**

Hello, I'm Michael Horowitz, Inspector General for the US Department of Justice.

Today my office released a new data dashboard on COVID-19 inmate vaccination trends in the Federal Bureau of Prisons, or BOP. We currently estimate that around 70 percent of inmates are fully vaccinated, and we will update these numbers on a weekly basis.

This new data dashboard adds to the significant body of work that my office has completed to evaluate the DOJ's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

That work includes tracking COVID-19 case trends, deaths due to COVID-19, and inmate testing trends in BOP facilities. We also produced reports evaluating:

- The COVID-19 response by 16 BOP facilities, the U.S. Marshals Service, and the Executive Office for Immigration Review,
- As well as the Office of Justice Programs' management of CARES Act grant funds.

Additionally, we conducted surveys of immigration judges, litigating attorneys, law enforcement staff, and BOP staff to understand the widespread effects of the pandemic on DOJ personnel and operations.

Our COVID-19 oversight work continues with weekly updates to our data dashboards, as well as ongoing work related to pandemic-related fraud, telehealth, home confinement, and grant funds. We'll also release the results of our BOP inmate survey on how the pandemic impact them, similar to our prior BOP staff survey.

Through these reviews, we will continue to make recommendations so that DOJ is better prepared to respond to this pandemic and future public health crises.

To access the dashboards and see our completed and ongoing pandemic-related work, please visit our website, [oig.justice.gov/coronavirus](https://oig.justice.gov/coronavirus), or go to the Pandemic Response Accountability Committee's website, [pandemicoversight.gov](https://pandemicoversight.gov).

Thank you for joining me today.

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