## **Public Health**

What Colin Powell's death can and can't tell us about COVID breakthrough cases

Heard on **Morning Edition** 

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When Colin Powell died this week from complications related to COVID-19, it was a shock to many Americans.

Though scientists and federal health officials are adamant that the vaccines work well to protect against hospitalization and death, it's unnerving to hear of fully vaccinated people like Powell, or perhaps your own friends and neighbors, falling severely ill with COVID-19.

So how well *do* the vaccines work? How serious is the risk of a serious breakthrough infection, one that could land you in the hospital?