



The Case for Vaccinating Children Against COVID-19

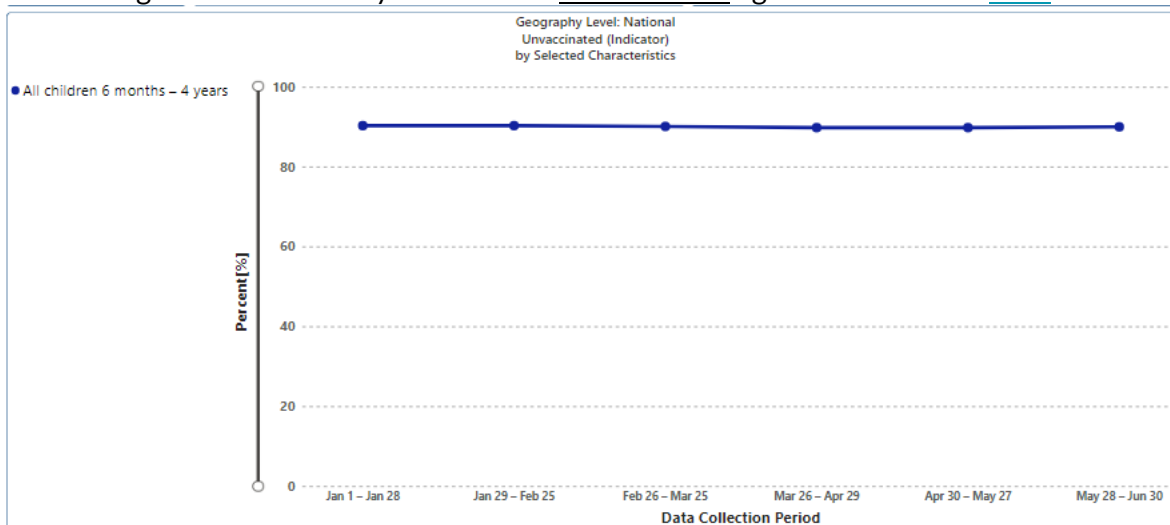
September 13, 2023

Talking Points and Emerging Science

- Over 10,000 infants become eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccine EVERY DAY in the U.S., yet we vaccinate about 7,000 children under age 4 years PER WEEK.
- 2,302 COVID-19 pediatric deaths as of Thursday, August 24, 2023 ([CDC](#)).

Age group	Count of deaths	Percent of total pediatric deaths
0-4 years	815	35%
5-11 years	569	25%
12-15 years	532	23%
16-17 years	386	17%

- Children ages 6 months to 4 years that are unvaccinated against COVID-19: [CDC](#)



NOTE: Estimates with a denominator sample size of <30 are suppressed and shown as *** in the table and as gray in the maps.
SOURCE: Estimates produced by NORC at the University of Chicago using CDC's National Immunization Survey Child COVID-19 Module (NIS-CCM) <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/imz-managers/nis/about.html>.

- Leaving children unprotected makes them vulnerable to infection from future variants and contributes to community spread.
- Ongoing nervous system development in children indicates there are opportunities for [neurological injury](#) that are linked to COVID-19.
- Rapid clearance of the virus in children may [compromise their cellular immunity and ability to resist reinfection](#).
- [Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children \(MIS-C\)](#) is a complication that can occur 2-4 weeks following COVID-19 infection. As of August 24, 2023, [9,518](#) children have been diagnosed with MIS-C and 79 have died.

- [Pediatric symptoms of long COVID](#) can differ from adult symptoms. Symptoms for children include abnormal liver enzymes, heart inflammation, changes in taste or smell, a cough, cold-like symptoms, hair loss, skin rashes, and diarrhea.
- [One in four children](#) who have had COVID-19 report ongoing symptoms 4-12 weeks after infection.

Why Do It

[CDC Recommendation](#) (last updated May 23, 2023)

- [Everyone aged 6 years and older](#) should get **1 updated Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine** to be [up-to-date](#).
- [Children aged 6 months-5 years](#) may need multiple doses of COVID-19 vaccine to be [up-to-date](#), including at least 1 dose of updated Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine, depending on the number of doses they've previously received and their age.

[AAP Recommendation](#) (last updated August 2021)

- The AAP recommends COVID-19 vaccination for all children and adolescents 12 years of age and older who do not have contraindications using a COVID-19 vaccine authorized for use for their age.

[ACIP Recommendation](#) (last updated October 2022)

- COVID-19 vaccines that are either authorized under Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) or approved under a Biologics License Application (BLA) are to be administered according to the most recent age- and vaccine-appropriate schedule included in CDC's Interim Clinical Considerations for COVID-19 vaccines.

How to Do It

- [AAP Pediatric COVID-19 Vaccine Dosing Quick Reference Guide](#) (updated May 2023)
- [Immunize.org Checklist of Current Versions of U.S. COVID-19 Vaccination Guidance and Clinic Support Tools](#) (updated May 29, 2023)