



The Case for Vaccinating Children Against COVID-19

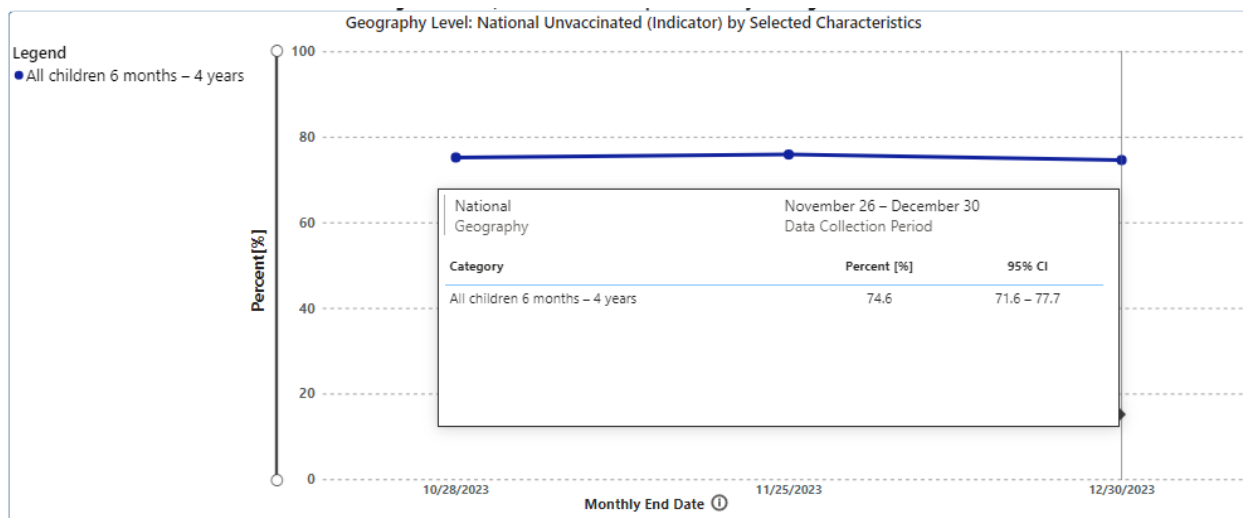
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Talking Points and Emerging Science on COVID-19

- Over 10,000 infants become eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccine EVERY DAY in the U.S., yet we vaccinate only a small fraction of them.
- 1,757¹ COVID-19 pediatric deaths as of Thursday, January 11, 2024 ([CDC](#)).

Age group	Count of deaths	Percent of total pediatric deaths
0-4 years	846	48%
5-11 years	325	18%
12-17 years	586	33%

- COVID-19 ranked as the top ([first](#)) leading cause of death in pediatrics when considering infectious and respiratory diseases, fifth leading cause of death when excluding deaths unrelated to diseases.
- Children ages 6 months to 4 years that are unvaccinated against COVID-19 as of December 30, 2023: [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>
 ARCHIVED DATA: Archived data before October 2023

- 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.

¹ On November 27, 2023, CDC updated its COVID-19 demographics and trends sites on COVID Data Tracker with death data reported to the National Vital Statistics System (NVSS)

- [Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children \(MIS-C\)](#) is a complication that can occur 2-4 weeks following COVID-19 infection. As of January 29, 2024, **9,645** children have been diagnosed with MIS-C and 79 have died.
- [Pediatric Bladder and Bowel Incontinence](#) can occur after long COVID-19. Occurrence of diarrhea can persist for up to 90 days after COVID-19 infection, leaving children vulnerable to dehydration.
- A [small retrospective cohort study](#) suggests that COVID-19 might be associated with an increased risk of new-onset asthma.
- [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.

Why Do It

[CDC Recommendation](#) (last updated January 18, 2024)

- [Everyone aged 5 years and older](#) should get **1 updated (after September 11, 2023) Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna vaccine; those 12 years and older can get 1 updated Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna or Novavax COVID-19 vaccine to be [up-to-date](#).**
- [Children aged 6 months– 4 years](#) may need multiple doses of COVID-19 vaccine to be [up-to-date](#), including at least one dose of updated (after September 11, 2023) Pfizer-BioNTech, 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)
- [Guidance of Providing Pediatric well-care During COVID-19](#) - concerns about a decline in vaccinations and well-child visits as an opportunity for COVID-19 vaccinations (updated October 2022)

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