

The State of Our Children: Kids and COVID-19

August 18, 2020



As much of the San Joaquin Valley and Central Coast areas remain on the State 'watch list,' this is the state of our children as of August 18, 2020.

Current Issues Facing our Children: Immunizations

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- Our kids are headed back to school – in ways we are certainly not used to but, in the face of our region's virus numbers, in the only way that is safest for our kids, their teachers and staff, and their families.
- Traditional "back to school" preparation has included ensuring that your children's immunizations are up to date and a "virtual" return is no different. School districts across our Valley are reporting immunization compliance in the 50-60% range and, for many districts, they are requiring that students present up-to-date immunization records before instruction can begin.
- Current immunizations are essential not only to ensure school enrollment but, fundamentally, to ensure the health of our kids when school does reopen in more traditional ways.
- According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), "fewer childhood vaccines have been given during the COVID-19 pandemic, compared with January-April 2019."
- The CDC continues, "The identified declines in routine pediatric vaccine ordering and doses administered might indicate that U.S. children and their communities face increased risks for outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases. As social distancing requirements are relaxed, children who are not protected by vaccines will be more vulnerable to diseases such as measles." (www.cdc.gov)

Key Findings from Recent Pediatric Literature: Transmission of COVID-19

From Dr. David Christensen, SVP, Medical Affairs & Chief Physician Executive

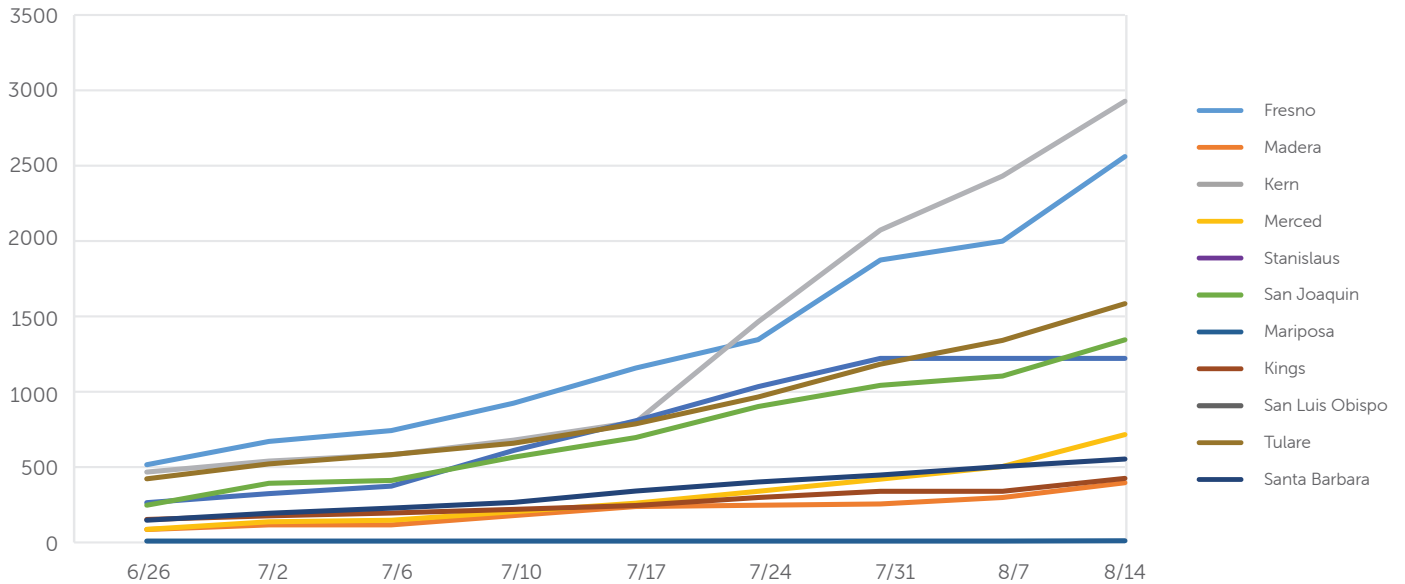
Additional research relevant to the question of kids and COVID-19 continues to be reported. In a soon-to-be-published study in the Journal of Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society (August 11, 2020), those authors, affiliated with the Department of Pediatrics, Emory University School of Medicine, Children's Healthcare of Atlanta and the Department of Pediatrics, Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis, MO, "investigated the dynamics of illness among household members of SARS-CoV-2 infected children that received medical care (n=32). [They] identified 144 household contacts (HCs): 58 children and 86 adults. 46% percent of HCs developed symptoms consistent with COVID-19 disease. Child-to-adult transmission was suspected in seven cases."

"Children comprise of a small proportion of overall COVID-19 cases at 5.2% of laboratory-confirmed infections in the US1. However, these data are likely an under-representation of the true pediatric infection burden as initial reports occurred in the setting of school closures and shelter-in-place orders. As the US economy reopens, a dramatic increase of cases has occurred in several states. Recent studies have shown that children may be both as likely to become infected as adults and to infect others, but are less likely to have symptoms, suggesting that they have the potential to be silent facilitators. A better understanding of the role children play in the chain of viral transmission is urgently needed."

Citation: J Pediatric Infect Dis Soc. 2020 Aug 11; p1aa097.doi:10.1093/jpids/p1aa097. Authors: Mehgan F Teherani, Carol M Kao, Andres Camacho-Gonzalez, , Samridhi Banskota, Andi L Shane, William M Linam, Preeti Jaggi

Current Regional Data

Of the 11 counties in the Valley Children’s service area, seven are on the State watch list, indicating the rate of transmission, hospitalizations, ICU bed capacity and deaths are trending in the wrong direction. As of August 14, 2020, we are seeing an increase in the number of children between the ages of 0-17 testing positive for COVID-19. (Note: Stanislaus County data includes patients up to the age of 20.)



Current Data and Trends

Across Valley Children’s Healthcare Network

10,945

Total Number of Tests Administered On Patients

9.5%

Positivity Rate

128

Total Number of COVID+ Patients Requiring Hospitalization

Everyone Can Do Their Part

SLOW THE SPREAD
WEAR A MASK

For More Information visit valleychildrens.org/covid19 or email contactus@valleychildrens.org



Wear a Mask • Maintain Social Distance and Avoid Large Gatherings
Wash Your Hands • Clean High-Touch Surfaces Frequently