

# The State of Our Children: Kids and COVID-19



## Media Briefing Summary July 23, 2020

### From Todd Suntrapak, President & CEO

- Valley Children's is the region's only pediatric specialty healthcare network – and we are fully prepared to care for the increasing numbers of children with COVID-19 that we are seeing across our service area.
- Valley Children's Hospital is currently receiving pediatric patients from our adult hospital partners across the region as they prepare to make additional space to care for adult COVID-19 patients.
- ***"COVID-19 in children is real – and any narrative in the media or elsewhere that portrays children as not at risk for this virus is a distraction."***

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

- Valley Children's has cared for COVID-19 patients from as young as 3 weeks old to 17 years old.
- Just as the literature is reporting for adults, we are seeing children with underlying conditions such as cystic fibrosis, congenital heart disease or respiratory conditions at potentially greater risk from the effects of COVID-19.
- We are administering Remdesivir to specific patients and are working to ensure that we have an adequate supply of that drug going forward.

### From Dr. Nael Mhaisen, Medical Director, Pediatric Infectious Disease

- We are seeing an increasing number of patients with Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children (MIS-C).
- Our priority remains keeping our patients, their families and our team safe. We have implemented several safety protocols, including health screening and universal masking policy at all locations; limiting the amount of visitors; increased cleaning of high traffic areas and frequently touched surfaces; and utilization of adequate and appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE).
- Hospitals alone cannot control this virus. We need everyone in the community to do their part—wear a mask, practice social distancing and avoid large crowds, wash their hands and clean high-touch surfaces.

### Key Findings from Recent Pediatric Literature: Transmission Rates

# 5.3%

COVID+ Children  
0-9 Years of Age

# 18.6%

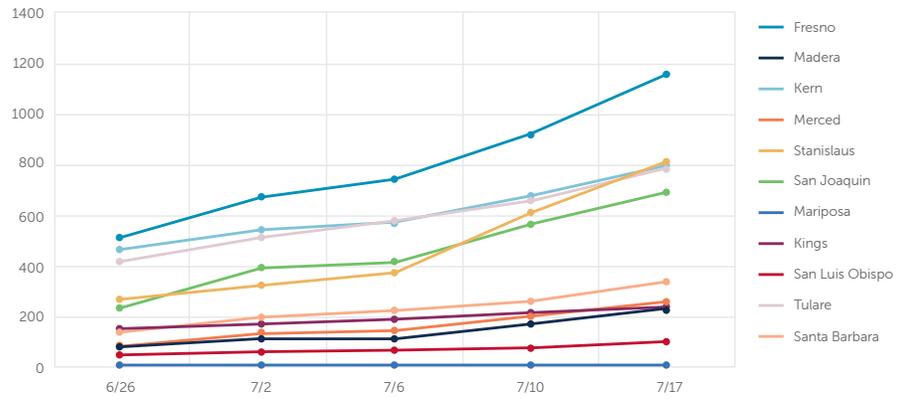
COVID+ Children  
10-19 Years of Age

From a recent study of 59,073 contacts from 5,706 COVID-19 cases in South Korea released on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website, the data demonstrates that transmission rates for children between the ages of 10-19 years of age is 18.6%, providing evidence that children—and older school-aged children, in particular—do transmit COVID-19. [https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/eid/article/26/10/20-1315\\_article](https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/eid/article/26/10/20-1315_article)

## Current Regional Data

Of the 11 counties in the Valley Children’s service area, seven of those counties 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 July 17, 2020, we are seeing an increase in the number of children between the ages of 0-17 years of age 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

6,473

Total Number of Tests Administered On Patients

8.0%

Positivity Rate

69

Total Number of COVID+ Patients Requiring Hospitalization

*We have seen a rise in the positivity rates of children tested in our Emergency Department over the last 14 days.*

## On School Reopenings

- Valley Children’s strongly believes that, under ‘normal circumstances,’ kids belong in school. They have access to great teachers, learning, socialization, nutrition, social and emotional support and time spent with adults who care about them. But these are not ‘normal circumstances.’ Until the counties have transmission rates (and other metrics as set by the State) under control, the risk of returning to school outweighs the benefits.
- There are specific groups of children—those with complex medical needs, homeless children, children living in abusive situations and others—who require extra consideration as schools develop their plans.

## Everyone Can Do Their Part

**SLOW THE SPREAD**  
**WEAR A MASK**

For More Information visit [valleychildrens.org/covid19](http://valleychildrens.org/covid19) or email [contactus@valleychildrens.org](mailto:contactus@valleychildrens.org)



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