JUNE 24, 2022

THE LATEST ON COVID-19

As of June 8, 2022, the current 7-day moving average of daily new cases (109,032) increased 8.0% compared with the previous 7-day moving average (100,916). The current 7-day average for new hospital admissions between June 1-7, 2022, was 4,127. This is an 8.0% increase from the previous 7-day average (3,820) between May 25-31, 2022. The current 7-day moving average of new deaths (306) has increased 18.6% compared with the previous 7-day moving average (258).

THE LATEST ON COVID-19 VACCINATIONS

As of June 21, 2022, 78.1% of the total U.S. population have received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. 66.8% of the total U.S. population have been fully vaccinated and 47.2% of this fully vaccinated population have received an additional or booster dose.
VACCINATION RATES IN THE HISPANIC COMMUNITY

As of June 21, 2022, Hispanics account for 20.7% of people with at least one dose received and 27.4% of people who received a vaccine in the last 14 days. These metrics are both greater than Hispanics’ share of the total U.S. population (19.2%).

Looking at the U.S. Hispanic population as a whole, 63.1% of Hispanics have received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine and 54.0% have been fully vaccinated. Of the fully vaccinated population, the Hispanic population continues to have the lowest proportion of additional/booster doses received once eligible (41.5%). It should be noted that since race/ethnicity was not available for about 1/4 of people who reported receiving at least one dose of the vaccine, these percentages are significantly underestimated.
CDC RECOMMENDS COVID-19 VACCINES FOR YOUNG CHILDREN

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration recently authorized and CDC updated its guidance to recommend children 6 months through 5 years of age receive a COVID-19 primary series vaccination. Parents can choose to vaccinate their child with either a Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine primary series consisting of three doses, where the initial two doses are administered three weeks apart followed by a third dose eight weeks later, or a Moderna COVID-19 vaccine primary series consisting of two doses administered one month apart.

The CDC is not favoring one vaccine over the other. Parents should consult their pediatricians to decide which vaccine is best for their child to receive. Medical experts emphasize that children who have been infected with COVID-19 should still be vaccinated to protect against reinfection and protect their loved ones. It should also be noted that the COVID-19 vaccine can be administered at the same time as other vaccines. You can now search on vaccines.gov for vaccine appointments for children 6 months through 5 years of age. Vaccines for younger children are continuing to be shipped nationwide and locations offering appointments are being updated daily.

YOUNG CHILDREN WITH MEDICAID & CHIP ARE ELIGIBLE FOR COVID-19 VACCINATIONS WITHOUT COST-SHARING

In light of the recent CDC recommendation that children 6 months through 5 years of age receive a COVID-19 primary series vaccination, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has announced that children in this age group with Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) coverage are eligible for COVID-19 vaccinations without cost-sharing. This decision means that nearly all people with Medicaid, CHIP, Basic Health Program coverage, self-insured employer-sponsored coverage, and group and individual health insurance coverage can get COVID-19 vaccinations (including boosters) at no cost.
CDC UPDATED ITS GUIDANCE FOR SUMMER CAMPS

While we are in a better place to enjoy our summer compared to the previous two years, it is still important to protect yourself and those who are at increased risk for severe illness. The CDC has updated its guidance for K-12 schools, early education settings, and summer camps. The guidance takes into consideration CDC’s COVID-19 Community Levels and gives summer camps flexibility to adapt to their local situations. At all COVID-19 Community Levels (including low levels), strategies such as staying up to date on vaccinations, staying home when sick, maintaining cleaning and disinfection practices, improving ventilation systems, and practicing hand hygiene should be in place. At medium or high COVID-19 Community Levels, camp facilities should consider adding layered prevention strategies such as masking, cohorting, and testing to keep summer programs safely open. If a summer camp is experiencing a COVID-19 outbreak, they should consider adding layered prevention strategies regardless of the COVID-19 Community Level in the area.

LIST OF HAND SANITIZERS YOU SHOULD NOT USE

If soap and water are not available, alcohol-based hand sanitizer can be an adequate substitute to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Recent FDA testing uncovered toxic ingredients in some hand sanitizers, so make sure you are not using a product that could be harmful. Be sure to check this list of hand sanitizers that the FDA recommends you stop using right away. You can use their step-by-step guide to find out if your product is on the list.

EXTENDED EXPIRATION DATES FOR COVID-19 AT-HOME TESTS

Don’t forget to check the list of FDA authorized at-home COVID-19 tests to see if the expiration date for a test you have has been extended. An extended expiration date means that the test manufacturer provided data to the FDA showing that the shelf-life is longer than previously thought when the test was initially authorized. This list is updated as additional shelf-life extensions are authorized.
COVID-19 Community Levels are a tool from the CDC to help communities decide what prevention steps to take based on the impact of COVID-19 in their surrounding area. Levels can be low, medium, or high and are calculated by taking into account hospital beds being used, hospital admissions, and the total number of new COVID-19 cases in an area. The Kaiser Family Foundation (KFF) conducted an analysis of how many people might be vulnerable to COVID-19 because they are either unvaccinated or not up to date on vaccines and live in U.S. counties with medium or high COVID-19 Community Levels. They defined being “up to date” on vaccines as having received a primary series and at least one booster dose. It should be noted that this analysis was performed before COVID-19 vaccines were approved for children 6 months through 5 years of age. KFF used CDC’s COVID-19 Community Levels and vaccination data by county as of June 2, 2022.

KFF found that there are 120 million people living in counties with medium or high COVID-19 Community Levels who are not up to date on their COVID-19 vaccines. Together, this group of people represent about half of those in the U.S. who are not up to date on vaccines. Of this group, 36 million people are unvaccinated, 20 million people are partially vaccinated, and 64 million people are vaccinated but not yet boosted.

People who are not up to date on vaccines and live in areas with medium or high COVID-19 Community Levels are vulnerable to severe health outcomes from COVID-19. This is especially the case for the 14 million people who are unvaccinated and live in counties with high COVID-19 Community Levels. These individuals’ risk for hospitalization and death from COVID-19 is significantly higher than if they were vaccinated. This analysis emphasizes the significant vulnerability to COVID-19 that still exists in many parts of the country.