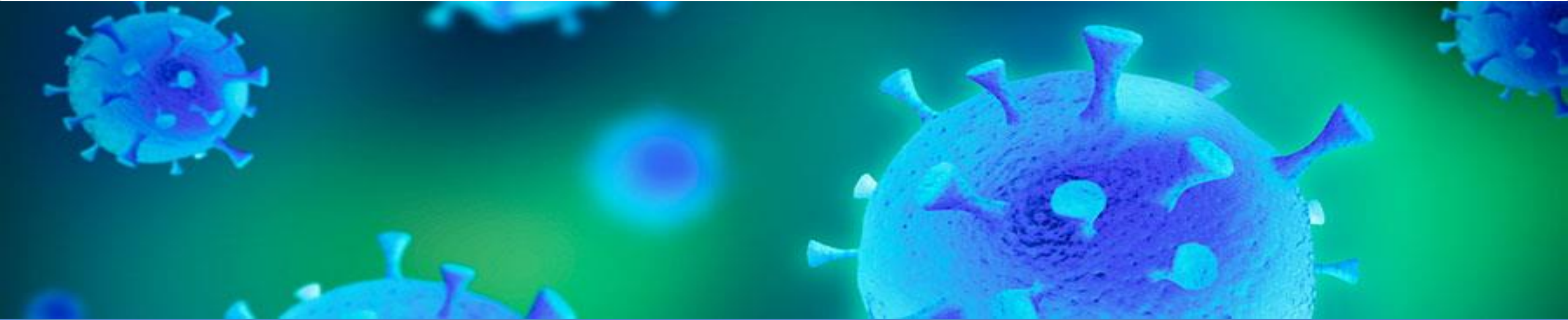


VCHIP / CHAMP / VDH COVID-19 UPDATES



Wendy Davis, MD FAAP - Senior Faculty, Vermont Child Health Improvement Program, UVM
Breena Holmes, MD FAAP – VCHIP Senior Faculty & Physician Advisor, MCH Division, VDH
August 11, 2021



Technology Notes

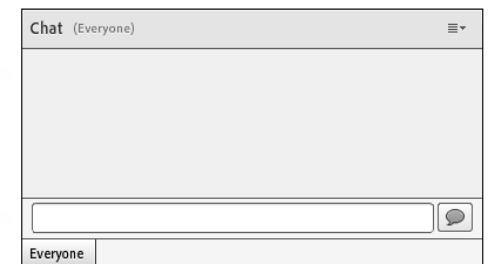
- 1) All participants will be muted upon joining the call.
- 2) If you dialed in or out, **unmute by pressing #6** to ask a question (and press *6 to mute).
If you are having audio difficulties and are using your computer speakers, you may wish to dial in:

Call in number – 1-866-814-9555

Participant Code – 6266787790

Presenters: Please avoid the use of speakerphone and make sure your computer speaker is muted if you dialed in via phone.

- 3) To ask or respond to a question using the **Chat** box, type your question and click the  icon or press Enter to send.



Overview



- Today is ***Annual Medical Checkup Day***
 - ▣ Visit the AAP's ***#CallYourPediatrician*** campaign toolkit (sample texts, videos & photos sized for Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn & Pinterest)
 - ▣ <https://services.aap.org/en/news-room/campaigns-and-toolkits/call-your-pediatrician/>
- Reminder – weekly event schedule:
 - ▣ ***Summer VCHIP-VDH call calendar*** (next slide); Gov. Media Briefings ***now Tuesdays only***; VMS calls w/Dr. Levine ***select Thursdays only***
- Situation, VDH, CDC, AAP updates; Tuesday media briefing
- Practice Issues – ***Vaccines for 2-11 y.o.; Partnering with VT School Nurses to Support a Safe Return to School***
- Q & A/Discussion

[Please note: the COVID-19 situation continues to evolve – so the information we're providing today may change]

VCHIP-VDH COVID-19 calls: Summer Calendar

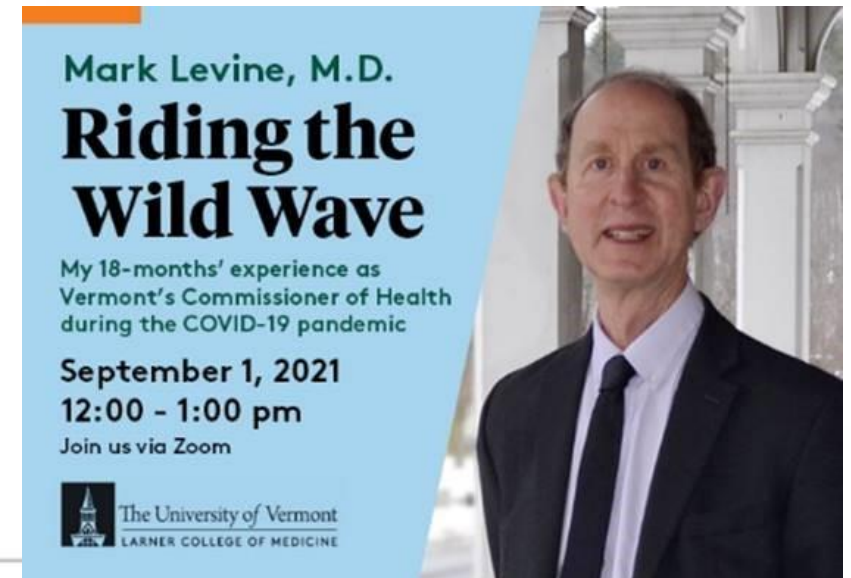
- **July**: generally **Wednesdays only**
- **August**: generally **Wednesdays only (next call August 18)**
 - ▣ Subject to change as we approach school reopening!
- **September forward – TBD!**
 - ▣ **No calls on September 1 or September 15**
- Schedule **subject to change** at any time if circumstances warrant!
- *Please continue to send your feedback re: schedule/topics to vchip.champ@med.uvm.edu*
- VMS calls with VDH Commissioner Levine now select Thursdays only (see next slide)



Special Presentation – September 1, 2021

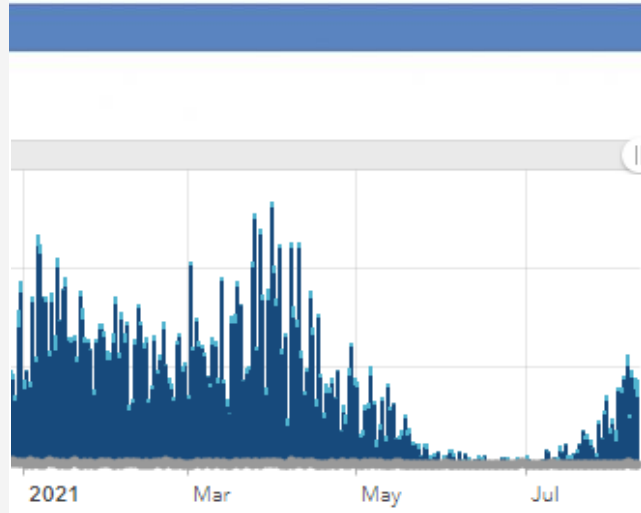
UVM Larner College of Medicine, John Stetson, UVM'56, M.D.'60, and Roberta B. Stetson, UVM'57, present:

- ❑ ***The Annual Stetson Lecture in Technological Advances in Medicine***
- ❑ Mark Levine, M.D., Commissioner of Health, State of Vermont: ***Riding the Wild Wave*** – My 18-months' experience as Vermont's Commissioner of Health during the COVID-19 pandemic
- ❑ September 1, 2021 – 12:00 - 1:00 pm
- ❑ Join us via Zoom
- ❑ <https://uvmcom.zoom.us/j/98260256995>



Situation update

New Cases	85
25,757 Total	
Currently Hospitalized	23
Hospitalized In ICU	7
Hospitalized Under Investigation	0
Percent Positive 7-day Avg.	3.2%
People Tested	422,266
Total Tests	1,806,758
Recovered	24,365
94.6% of Cases	
Deaths	263
1% of Cases	
Last Updated: 8/11/2021, 10:44:52 AM	



VT New Cases, Probables, Deaths

NOTE: VDH Dashboard now updated Mon-Fri only (excl. holidays). Case info reflects counts as of end of the previous weekday. Data from Sat/Sun posted w/Monday's update. All data are compiled by the VDH; are preliminary & subject to change. Dashboard is updated by 12:00 p.m.

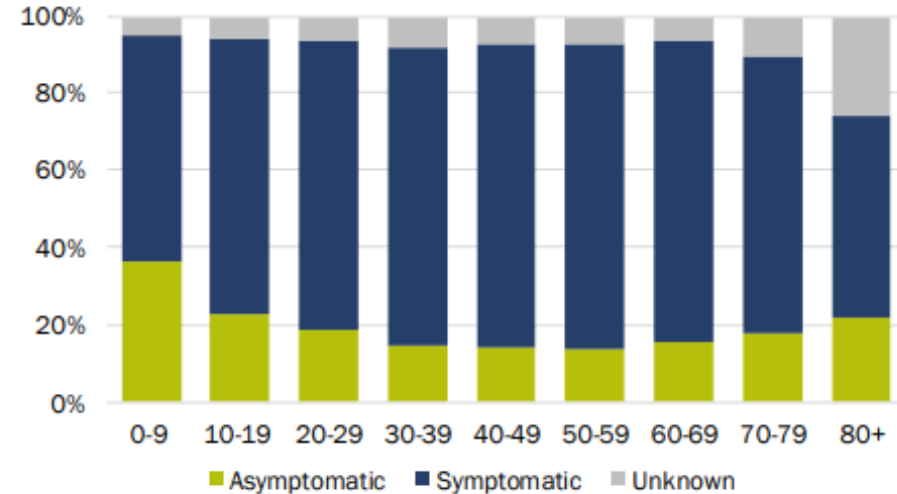
<https://www.healthvermont.gov/covid-19/current-activity/vermont-dashboard>

- One year ago: VT total cases = 1472
- U.S. **36.1 million+** cases; **618,363 deaths**
 - ▣ <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2021/us/covid-cases.html> (updated 8/11/21)
 - ▣ Past week: av. 118,067 cases/day (14d. change **+86%**)
 - ▣ **4.31 million+ deaths worldwide**; **204.1 million+ cases** (+16% & +15% 14-day change respectively)
- **VDH Data Summary** now q.o.week. **Spotlight analyses** only as needed! (**Latest: 7/30/21**)
 - ▣ Case rate highest among 20-29 y.o. (607.4/10K)
 - ▣ Children (0-19) = 23% of VT COVID-19 cases; of those, 24% are 18-19 y.o. [Total 5,641 posted 7/30/21]
 - ▣ **Vaccine breakthrough cases = 360276** since Jan. 2021 (~0.07% of fully vaccinated)
 - ▣ Find previous summaries at: <https://www.healthvermont.gov/covid-19/current-activity/weekly-data-summary>

Vermont Children and COVID-19

Sign or Symptom	Percent of Children with Symptom
Runny Nose	57%
Cough	48%
Headache	47%
Fatigue	43%
Sore Throat	39%
Muscle Pain	26%
Loss of Smell/Taste	26%
Fever	20%

The percent of COVID-19 cases with **no symptoms** is higher among children. More than one quarter (27%) of cases among children had **no symptoms** reported.



5 days
Average illness duration among children

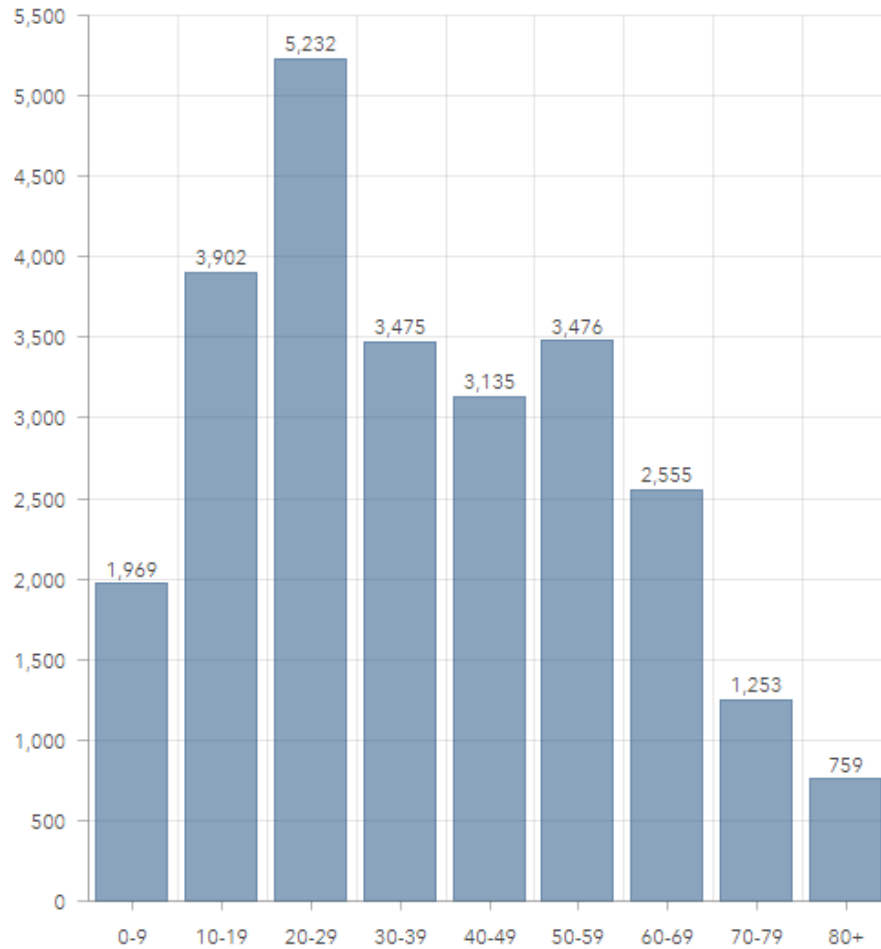
68% of children with COVID-19 had known contact with somebody else who had COVID-19.

Among Vermont's children with COVID-19, there are currently no reported cases of multi-system inflammatory syndrome or deaths, and 10 hospitalizations.

21% of children with COVID-19 were part of an outbreak.

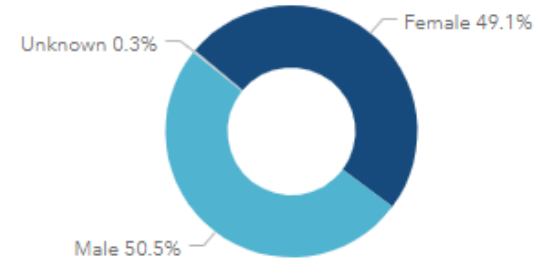
Situation update

Vermont COVID-19 Cases by Age Group

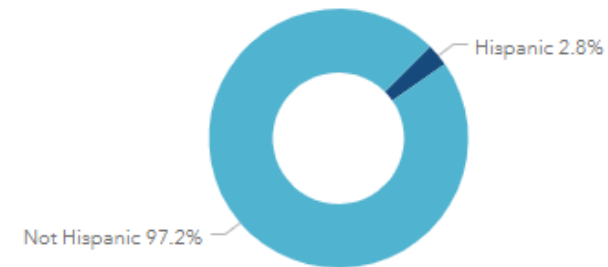


Case Demographics

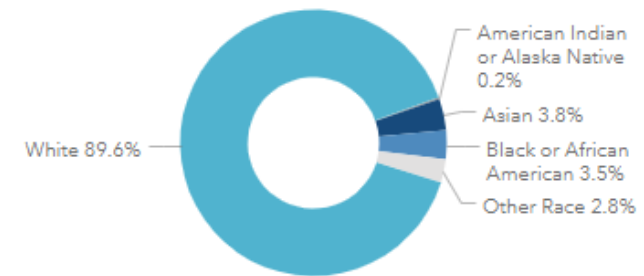
Vermont COVID-19 Cases by Sex



Vermont COVID-19 Cases by Ethnicity if Known



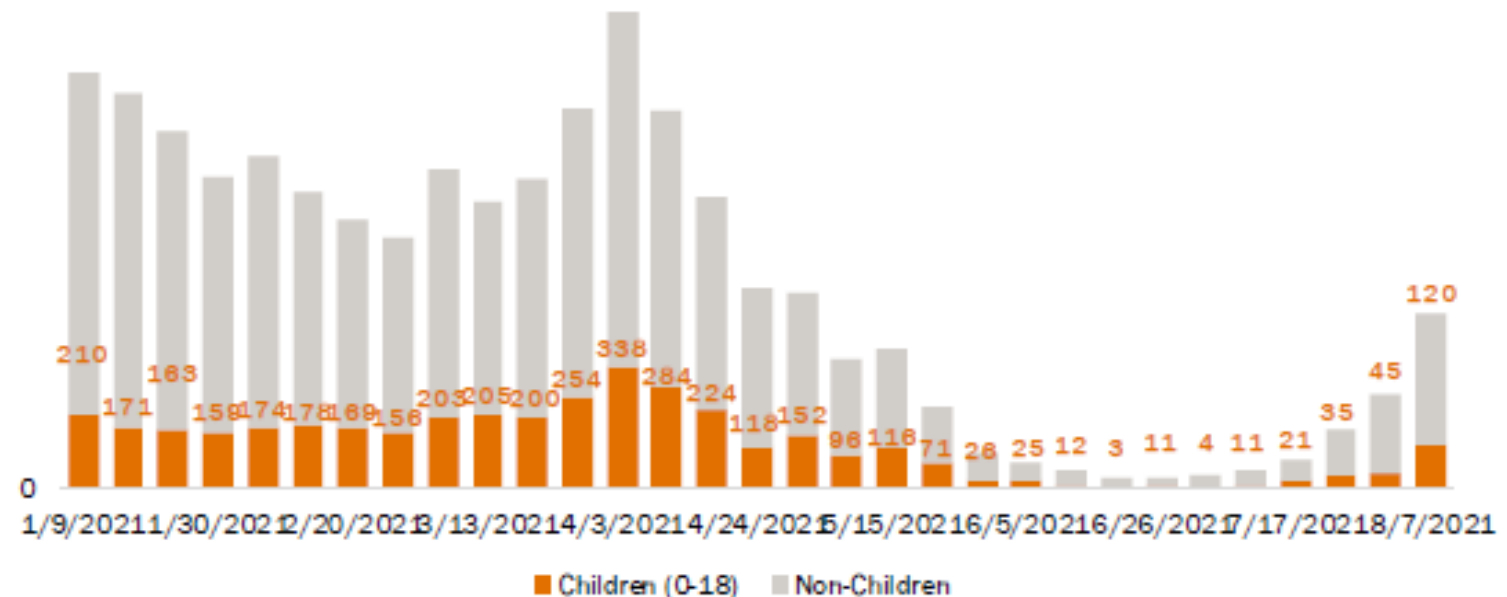
Vermont COVID-19 Cases by Race if Known



This brief reflects data as of August 7, 2021 at 7 pm (the last complete MMWR week). All rates are calculated per 10,000 people. Data is preliminary and subject to change.

Number of Cases by Week

1500

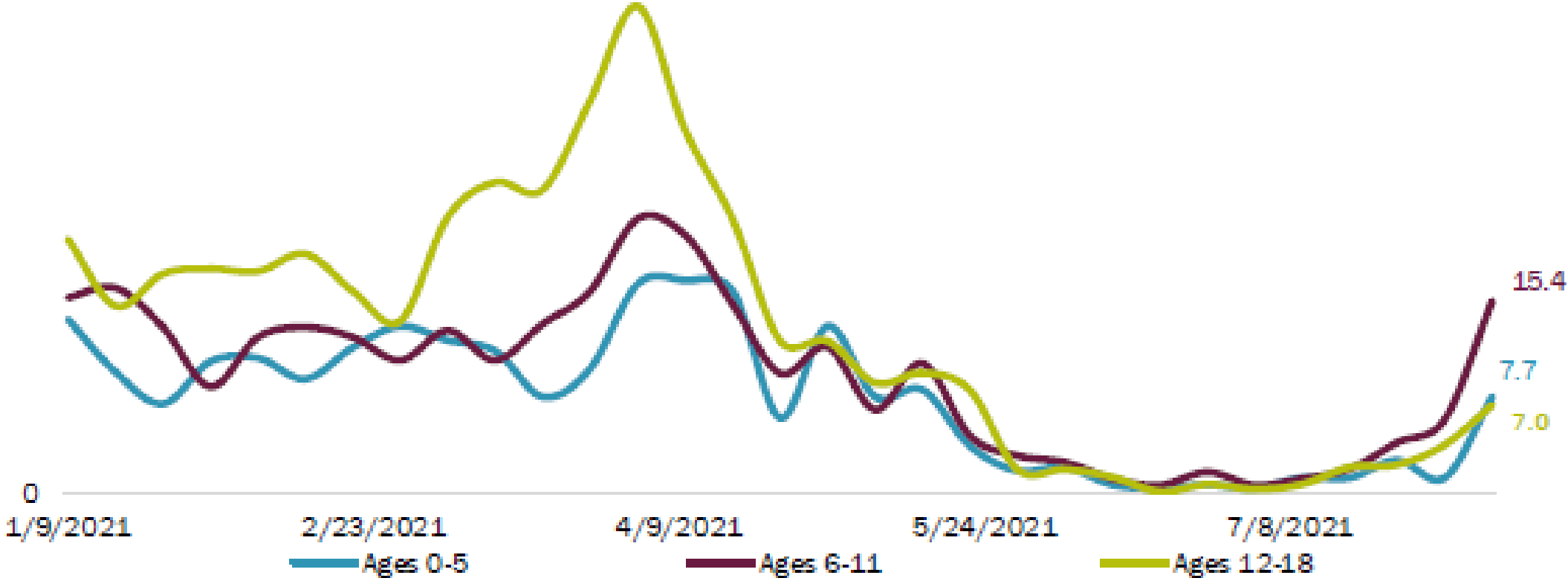


Same report as the School Aged Children report renamed to **COVID-19 Pediatric Cases** to clarify that the age groupings for the summer incorporates all children.

COVID-19 Pediatric Cases

Rates by Week by Age Category

45



VDH COVID-19 Vaccine Registration & Sites

<https://www.healthvermont.gov/covid-19/vaccine/getting-covid-19-vaccine>

ELIGIBILITY

Anyone age 12 and older is eligible to be vaccinated, regardless of residency. Learn about vaccines for people 12-15 years old.

GET YOUR FREE VACCINE WITHOUT AN APPOINTMENT!

- > Find a walk-in clinic here
- > People 12 - 17 years old
- > When to talk to your health care provider

APPOINTMENTS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE

- > Make an appointment for a free vaccine



Home Pharmacy + Savings + Shop + About Us +

COVID-19 Vaccination Scheduling at Kinney Drugs in

Currently, the State of Vermont allows Kinney Drugs Pharmacists to administer COVID-19 vaccines to the

- Vermont residents age 65+
- K-12 teachers and onsite staff
- child care workers



Search

Pharmacy MinuteClinic® HealthHUB Shop ExtraCare® Contact Lenses Photo

Home > Pharmacy > COVID-19 Vaccine

Now offering the FREE* COVID-19 vaccine in select stores

We're administering the vaccine by appointment only based on local eligibility guidelines.

No cost with insurance or through federal program for the uninsured.



Menu

Search by keyword or item #

Schedule your COVID-19 vaccination today.



Limited supplies of COVID-19 vaccines are now available in some states at select stores to individuals 16 years of age and older (16 years of age and older for Pfizer; 18 years of age and older for Moderna) who meet state-specific eligibility criteria.

See if you're eligible in your state >

12



VDH COVID-19 Vaccine Dashboard (Summary Page: 8/11/21)

- Daily updates Tuesday thru Saturday
- Data = counts reported by end previous day; subject to change.
- <https://www.healthvermont.gov/covid-19/vaccine/covid-19-vaccine-dashboard>
- **Notes:** See our progress toward the **Vermont Forward** target of 80%... percentages draw on state-level data from **CDC**; incl. some data not reported to VDH (CDC data more inclusive/less detailed than VDH & may differ from VDH dashboard).

Vermont Vaccination Data

Blue headers indicate CDC data
Gray headers indicate Vermont data

Vaccination by County Age 12+

The percent of the county population age 12+ that has received at least one dose of the vaccine

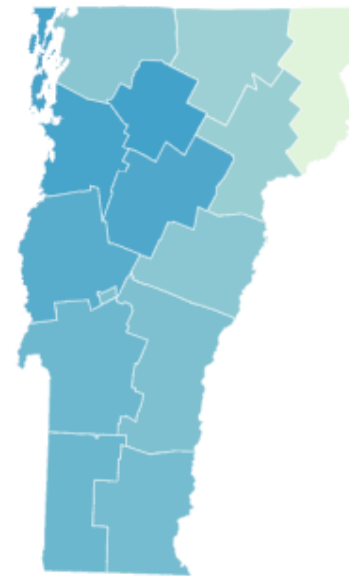
Show Rates By:

Overall

Race/Ethnicity

Ethnicity

County	Overall progress
Addison	83.1%
Bennington	79.8%
Caledonia	71.8%
Chittenden	86.1%
Essex	59.3%
Franklin	74.7%
Grand Isle	86.4%
Lamoille	86.9%
Orange	74.3%
Orleans	71.1%
Rutland	79.5%
Washington	84.9%
Windham	78.0%
Windsor	76.6%



59.3% 86.9%

See data notes for more information about COVID-19 immunizations provided in New Hampshire.

Summary By Age, Sex, Race, Ethnicity

Vermont Forward

84.6%
of Vermonters 12+ have started vaccination

466.2K
Vermonters 12+ have received at least one dose

Source: CDC with VT Department of Financial Regulation reconciliation

Vaccine Distribution

Doses Received **948.9K**

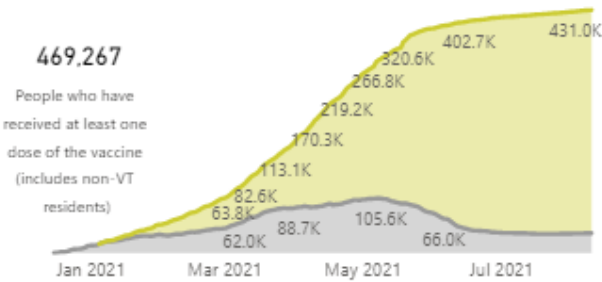
Doses Administered **860.5K**

Total People Vaccinated

Total People Started **38.3K**

Total People Completed **431.0K**

Started Completed



Updated 8/11/2021 8:38:29 AM

VDH COVID-19 Vaccine Dashboard (Age/Sex/Race/Ethnicity)

- Daily updates Tuesday thru Saturday
- Data = counts reported by end prev. day; subject to change.
- <https://www.healthvermont.gov/covid-19/vaccine/covid-19-vaccine-dashboard>
- By Age – Statewide (≥ 1 dose):
 - ▣ 12-15 = 66.7% (65.3% on 8/4/21)
 - ▣ 16-17 = 73.2% (72.7% on 8/4/21)
 - ▣ 18-29 = 58.8% (58.3% on 8/4/21)
 - ▣ VT Age 12+ = 80.5% (80.0% on 8/4)

Vermont Vaccination Data

By Age - Statewide

The percent of the statewide population of each age group that has received at least one dose of the vaccine

Age	%*
12 - 15	66.7%
16 - 17	73.2%
18 - 29	58.8%
30 - 39	79.9%
40 - 49	80.1%
50 - 59	83.4%
60 - 64	89.4%
65 - 69	95.5%
70 - 74	99.9%
75+	95.8%
VT Age 12+	80.5%

Statewide numbers and percentages are capped at 100%. County numbers and percentages are capped at 95%. Values above 95% are suppressed to protect personal health information. See notes below for more information.

Select County

All

Summary

By Age, Sex, Race, Ethnicity

By Race - Statewide

The percent of the statewide population age 12+ of each race that has received at least one dose of the vaccine

Race	%*
Asian	72.8%
Black or African American	69.5%
Native American, Indigenous, or First Nation	29.3%
Pacific Islander	24.6%
Two or more races	65.0%
White	78.3%
VT Age 12+	77.6%

Race information is not reported for 4% of people vaccinated.

By Ethnicity - Statewide

The percent of the statewide population age 12+ of each ethnicity that has received at least one dose of the vaccine

Ethnicity	%*
Hispanic	91.4%
Not Hispanic	75.5%
VT Age 12+	75.8%

Ethnicity information is not reported for 6% of people vaccinated.

By Race/Ethnicity and Age - Statewide

The percent of the statewide population age 12+ of each race/ethnicity that has received at least one dose of the vaccine

Race*	12-30	31-64	65+	Age 12+
BIPOC	63.7%	78.1%	87.3%	72.7%
Non-Hispanic White	57.3%	77.0%	93.7%	75.7%
Vermont	58.0%	77.0%	93.5%	75.5%

Race/ethnicity information is not reported for 6% of people vaccinated.

BIPOC refers to Black, Indigenous, and people of color.

By Sex - Statewide

The percent of the statewide population age 12+ of each sex that has received at least one dose of the vaccine

Sex	%*
Female	82.7%
Male	78.0%
VT Age 12+	80.4%

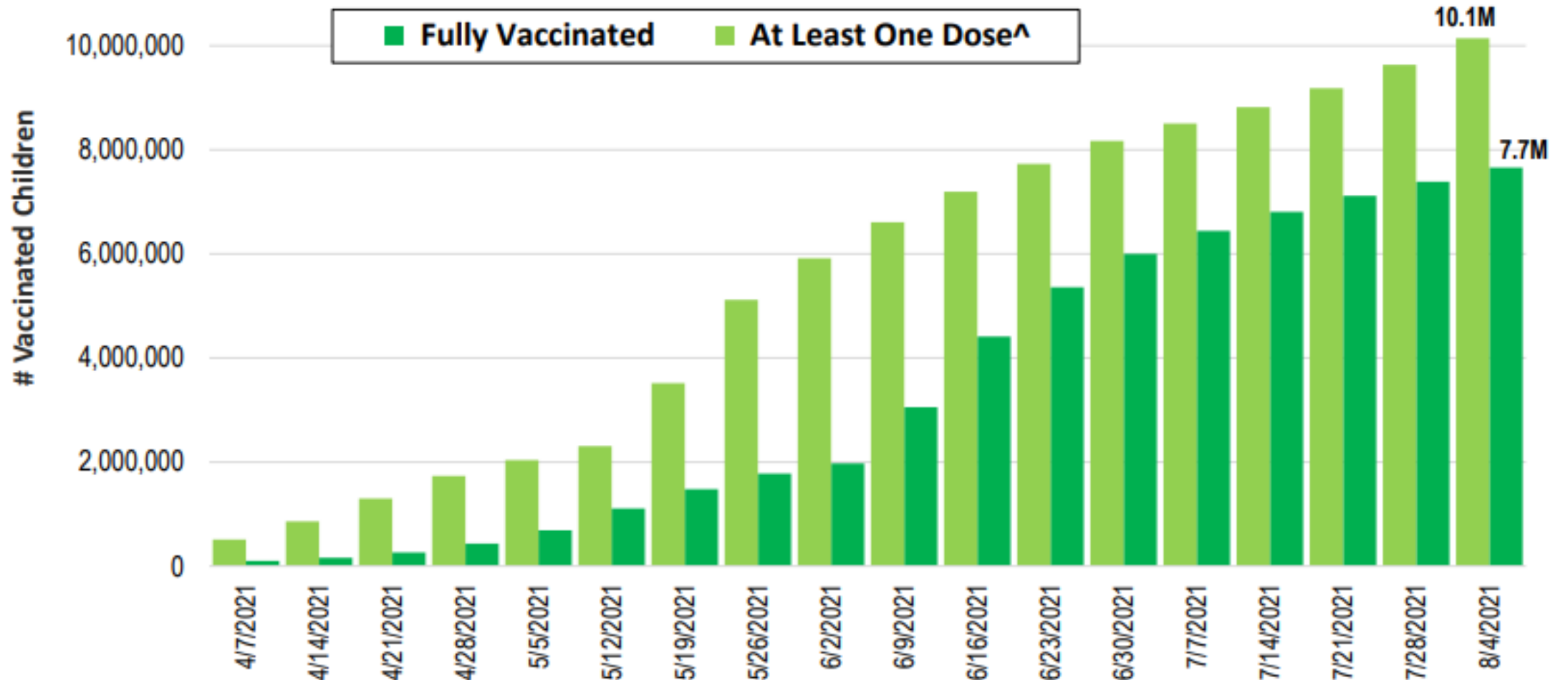
Sex information is not reported for 509 people vaccinated.

Updated 8/11/2021 8:38:29 AM

Cumulative Number of US COVID-19 Vaccine Recipients Under Age 18

<https://services.aap.org/en/pages/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-infections/children-and-covid-19-vaccination-trends/>

4.07.21 to 8.4.21



[^]Includes those having received only 1 of 2 doses and those fully-vaccinated.

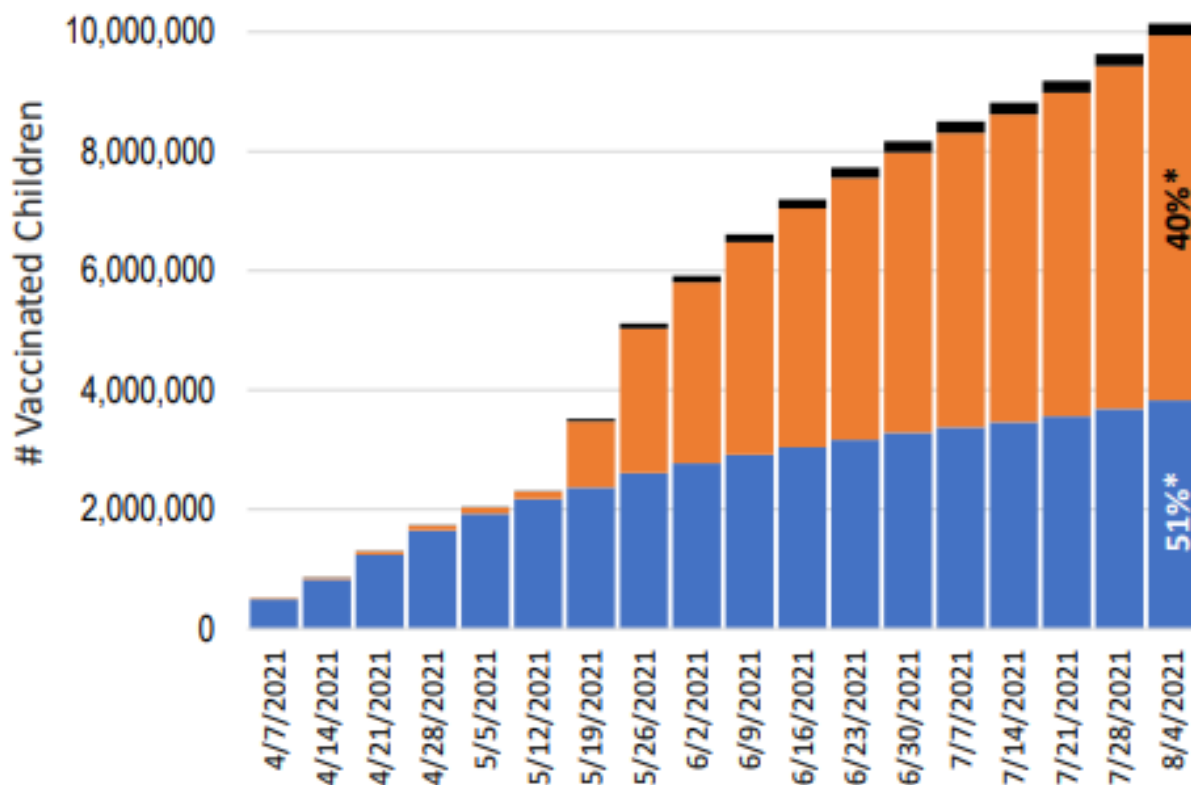
Source: AAP analysis of data series published by the CDC titled "Demographic Trends of People Receiving COVID-19 Vaccinations in the United States."

Cumulative Number of US COVID-19 Vaccine Recipients Under Age 18 by Age Group

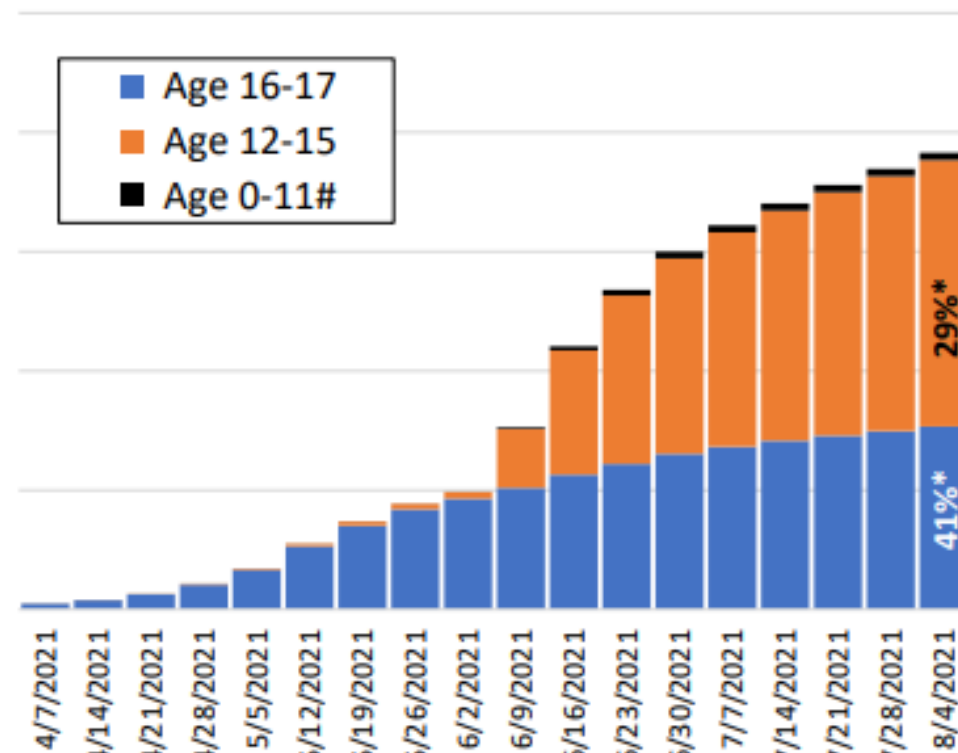
<https://services.aap.org/en/pages/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-infections/children-and-covid-19-vaccination-trends/>

4.07.21 to 8.4.21

At Least One Dose[^]



Fully Vaccinated



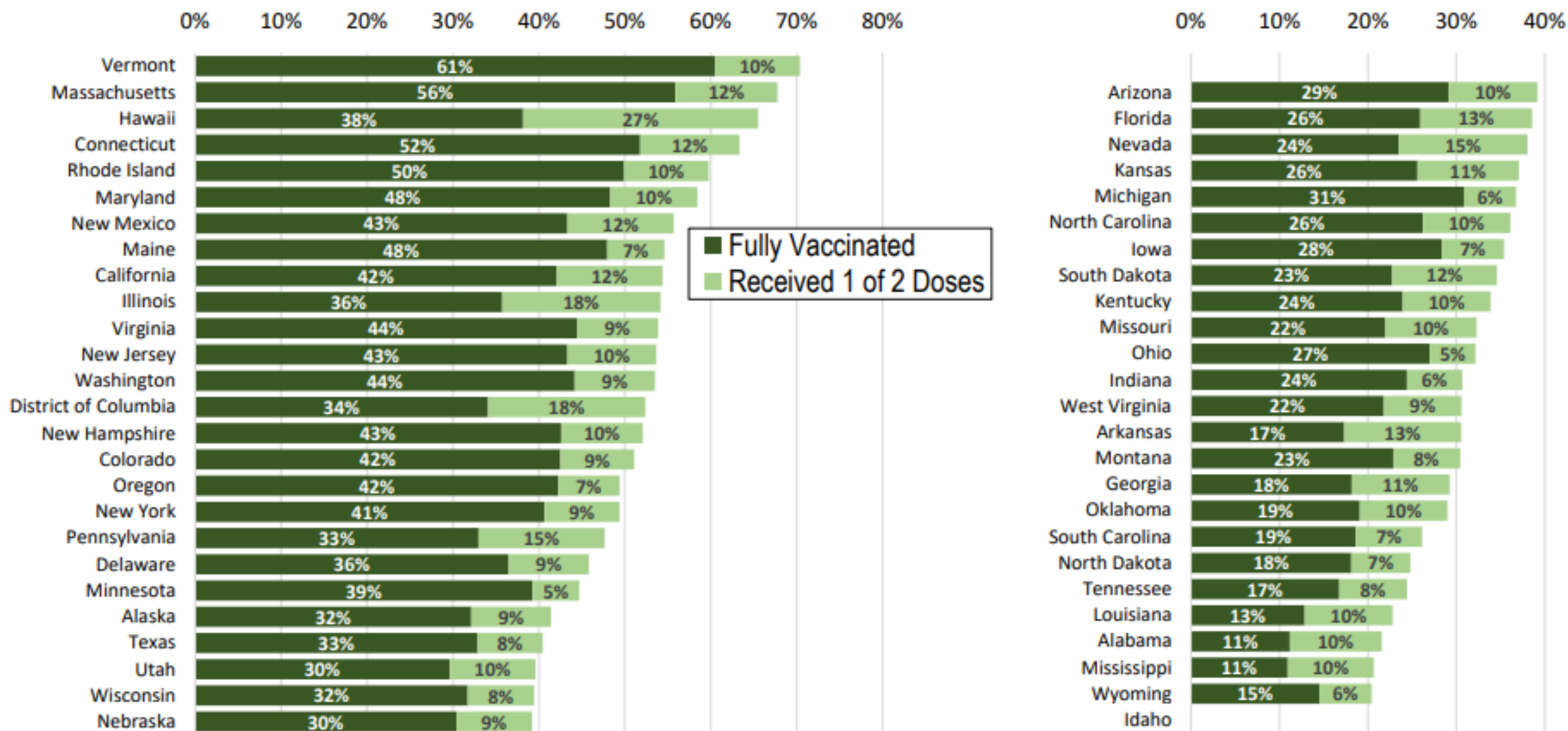
[^]Includes those having received only 1 of 2 doses and those fully-vaccinated. Vaccinated children as percentage of all children within age group. # According to the CDC Coronavirus Disease Response Team, children under age 12 may be included as vaccinated due to (1) birthdate entered incorrectly, or (2) ongoing COVID-19 vaccine clinical trials involving children under age 12. * CDC-calculated vaccinated children as percentage of all eligible children within age group.

Source: AAP analysis of data series published by the CDC titled "Demographic Trends of People Receiving COVID-19 Vaccinations in the United States."

Proportion of US Children Ages 12-17 Vaccinated Against COVID-19 by State of Residence

Vermont leads the nation!

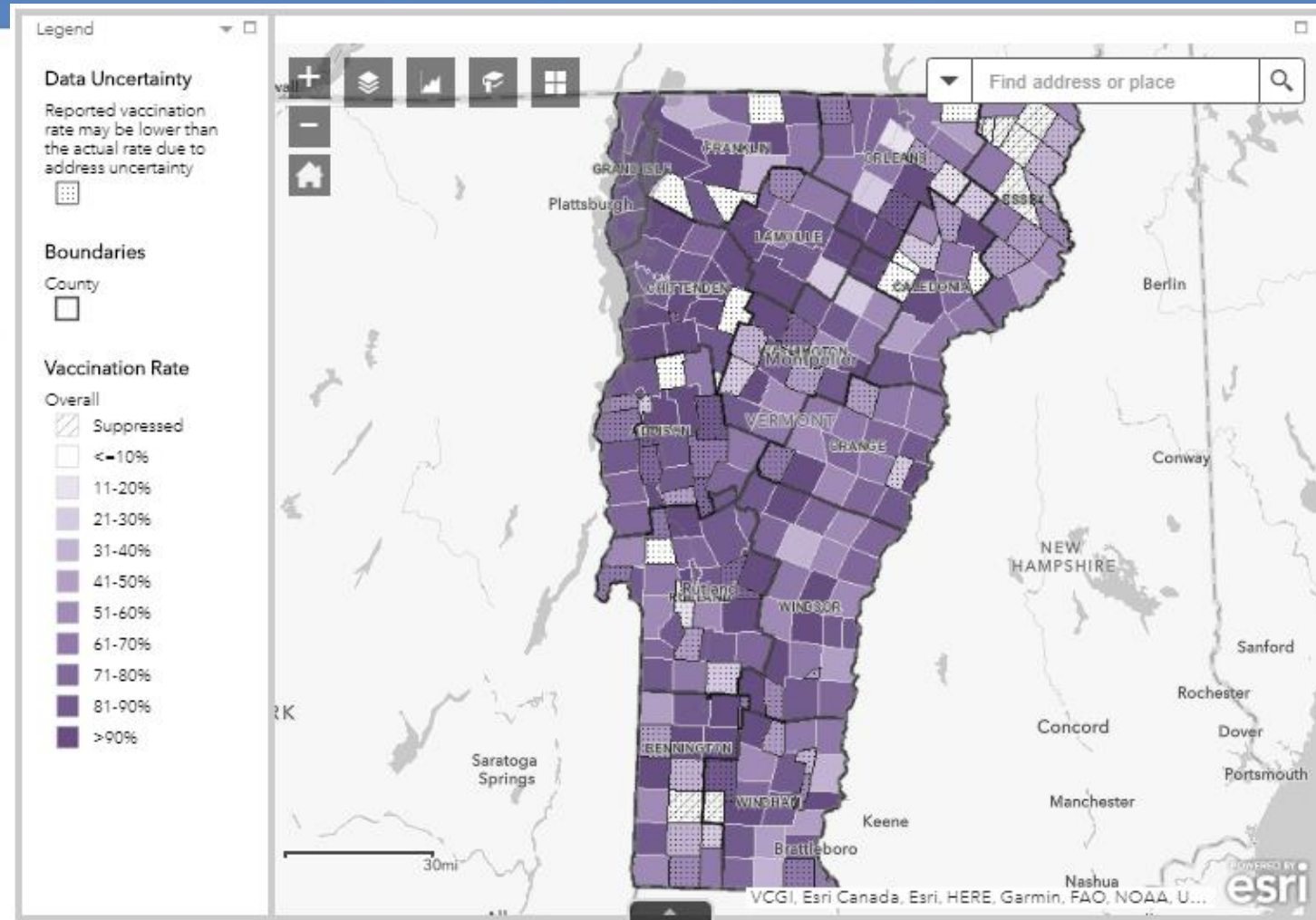
as of 8.4.21



Source: AAP analysis of data series titled 'COVID -19 Vaccinations in the United States, Jurisdiction'. CDC COVID -19 Data Tracker (URL: <https://data.cdc.gov/Vaccinations/COVID-19-Vaccinations-in-the-United-States-Jurisdiction>). Idaho information not available. Check state's web sites for additional or more recent information

Map of COVID-19 Vaccine Rates by (VT) Town

- Map shows overall % of VTers age 12+ vaccinated with \geq one dose of COVID-19 vaccine.
- Map updated weekly (Thurs.) & includes data reported to VT Immunization Registry thru Wed. [Note: last reviewed 6/29/21]
- Please use caution when interpreting town data – several scenarios where vaccinations are not attributed to the correct town. [See web site notes for details.]

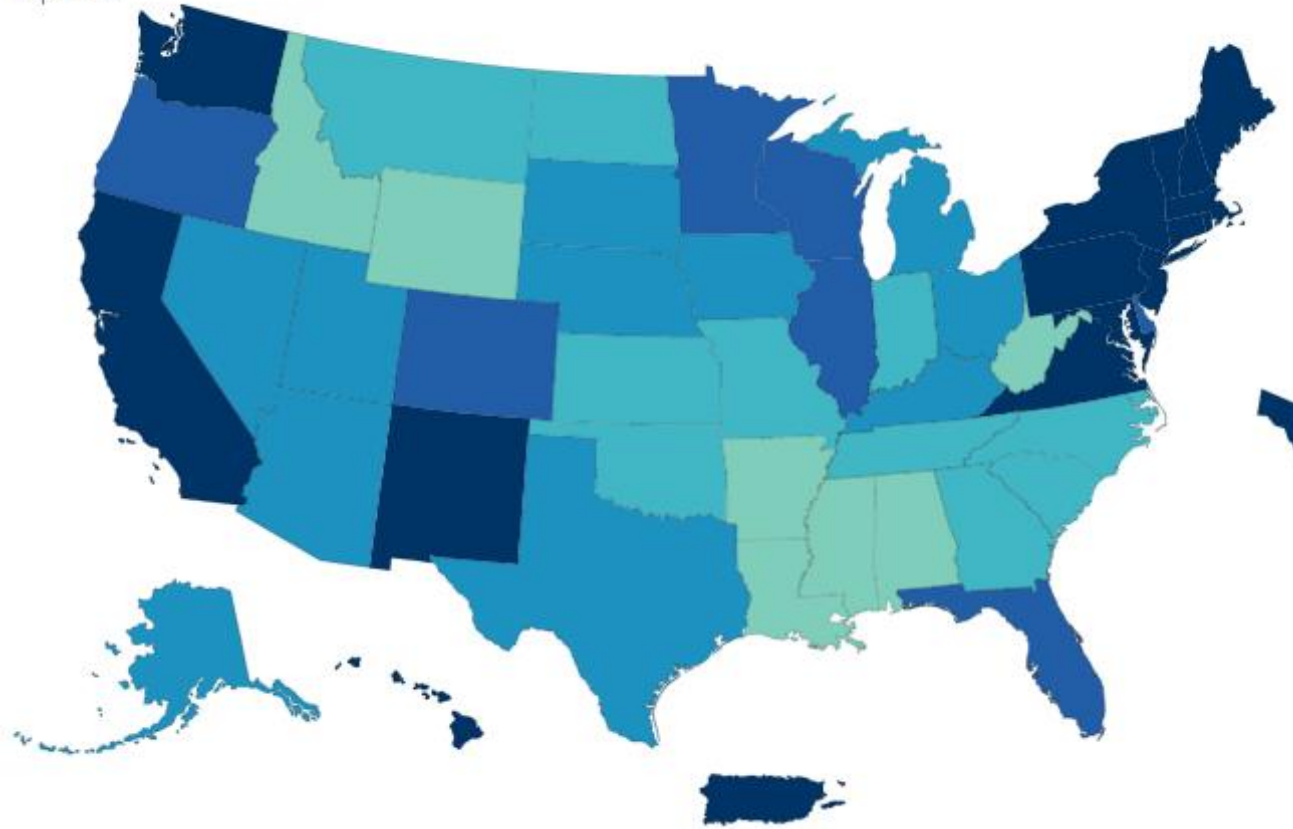


□

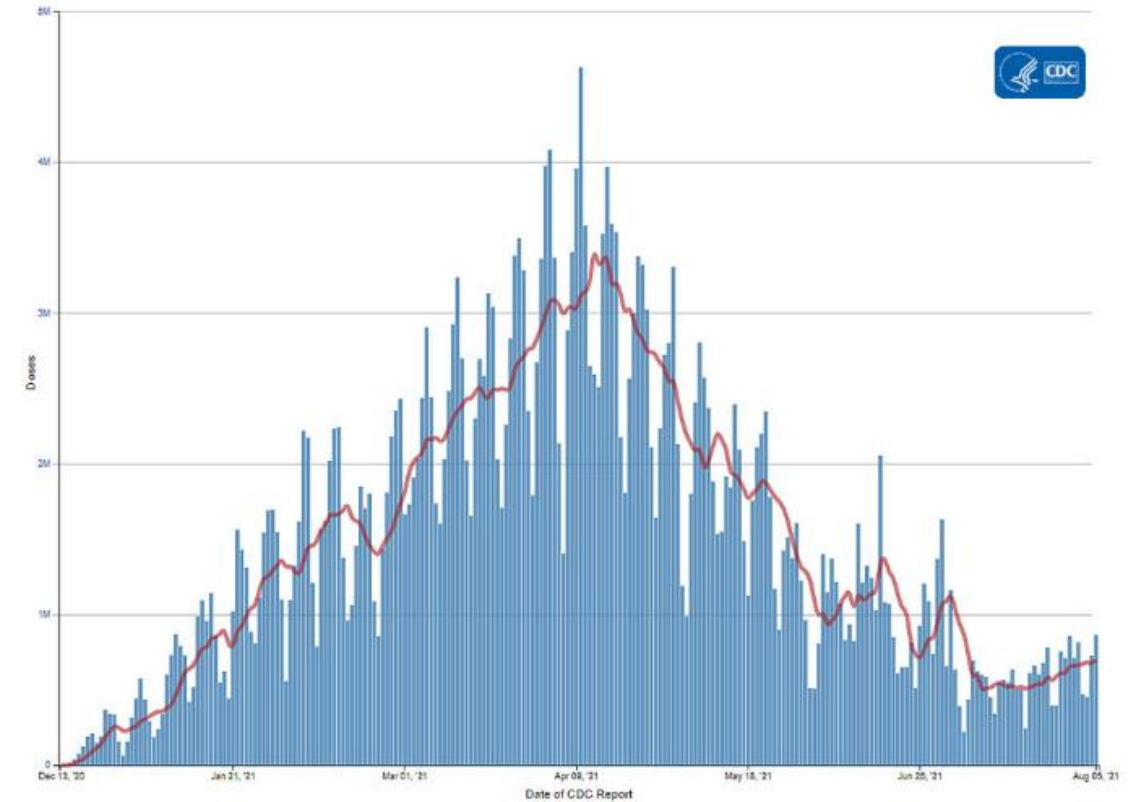
From the CDC Vaccine Tracker

Daily Change in Number of COVID-19 Vaccinations in the United States Reported to CDC

Total Doses Administered Reported to the CDC by State/Territory and for Select Federal Entities per 100,000 of the Total Population



7-Day moving average

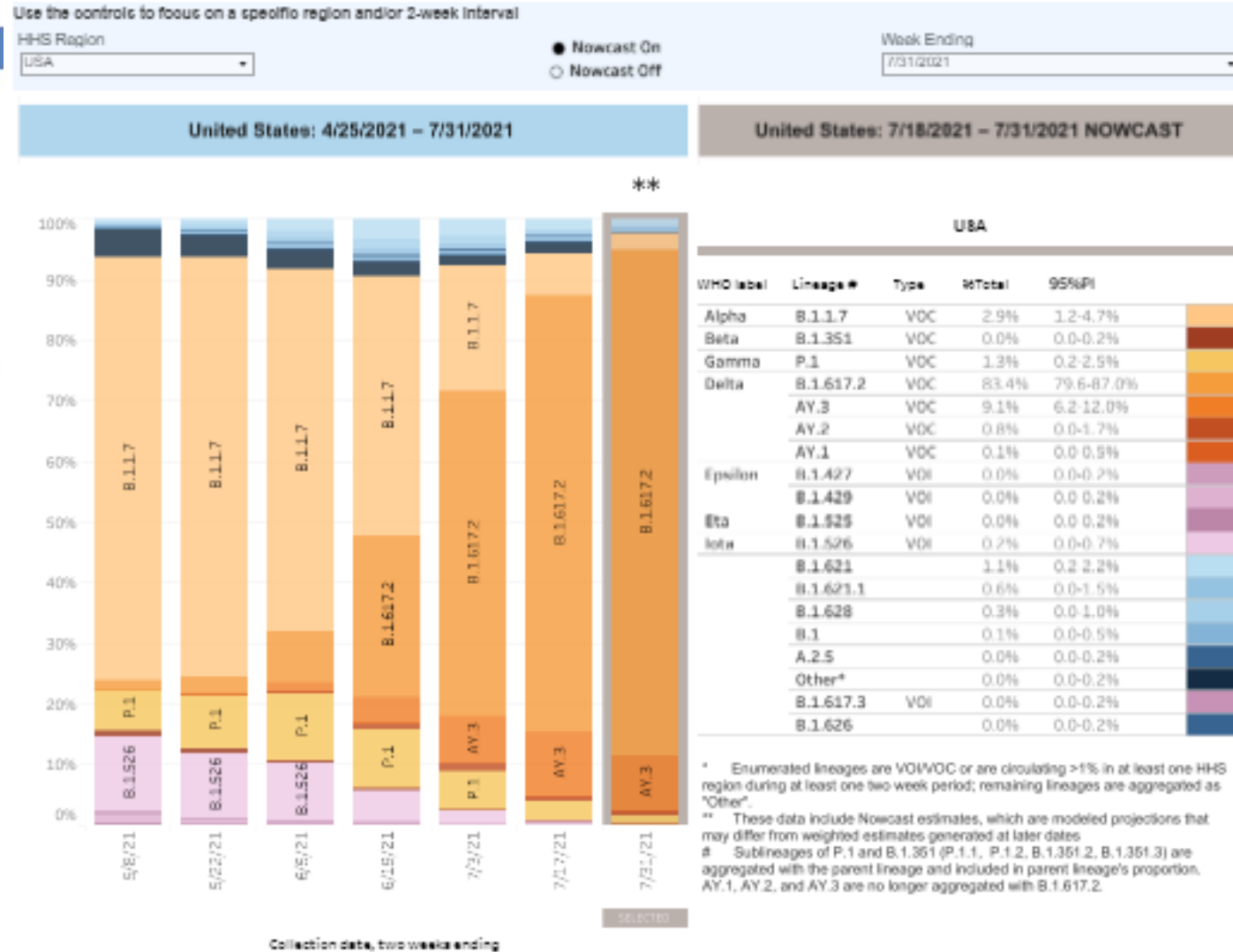


<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/covid-data/covidview/index.html>

<https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#vaccinations>

August 11, 2021

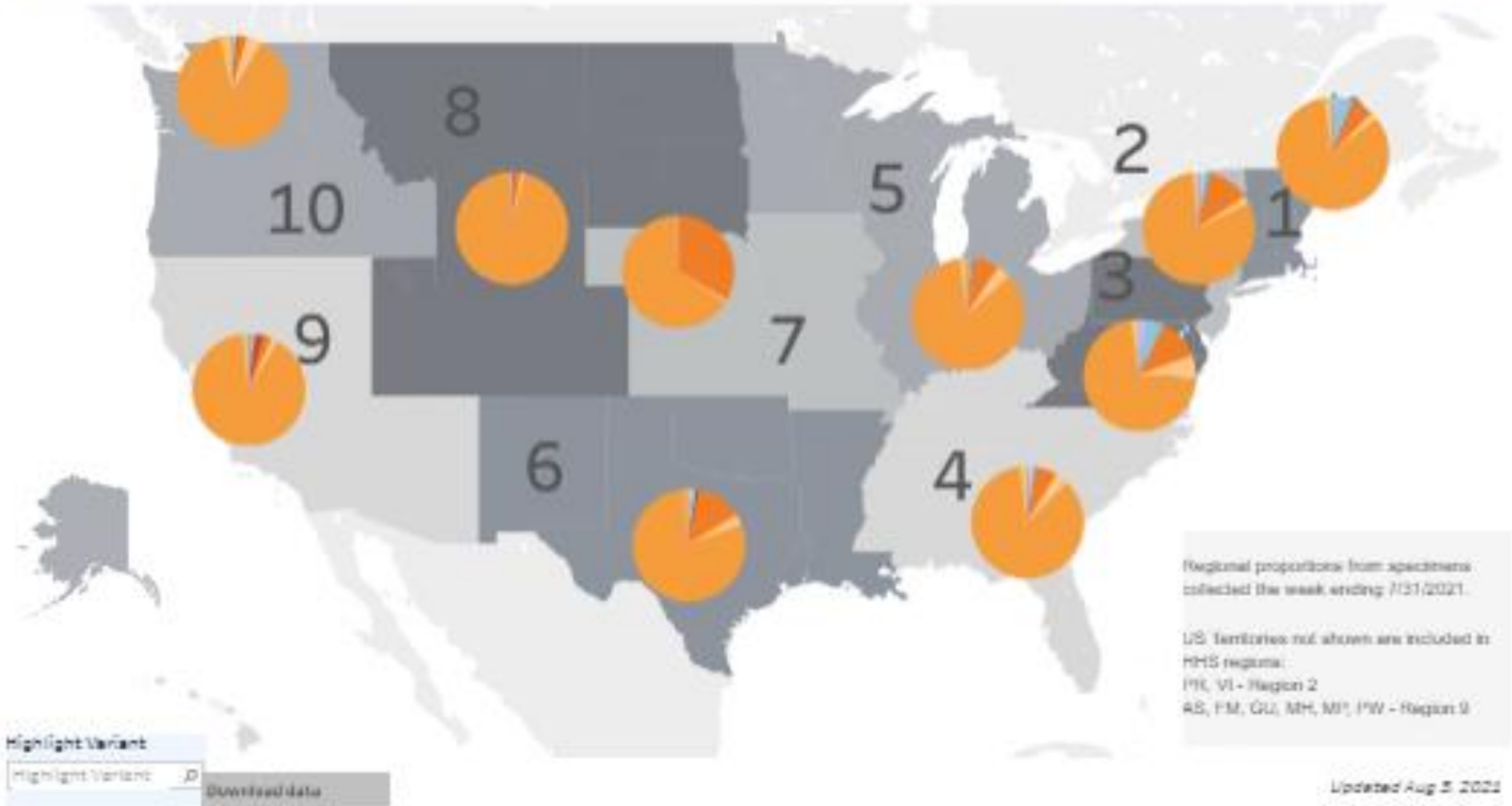
From the CDC: SARS-CoV-2 Variants in the U.S.



Note striking preponderance of Delta variant (dark orange) in far right column, two weeks ending 7/31/21.

From the CDC: SARS-CoV-2 Variants in the U.S.

United States: 7/18/2021 – 7/31/2021 NOWCAST



Again note striking preponderance of Delta variant (dark orange) across all HHS Regions (two weeks ending 7/31/21).

SARS Co-V-2 Variants in Vermont

- VDH detects variants of concern through genetic sequencing of certain viral specimens (people who already tested pos. in various parts of VT); only a small percentage of samples are sequenced.
- Table: **cumulative #** variants identified & co. of residence (NOT actual # variants circulating).
- Absence of a county in table does NOT mean variant is not present (table updated Wednesdays).
- <https://www.healthvermont.gov/covid-19/current-activity/covid-19-communities>

Specimens Collected from July 7 to July 22

COUNTY	B.1.1.7 (ALPHA)	P.1 (GAMMA)	B.1.351 (BETA)	B.1.617.2 (DELTA)
Addison	0	0	0	3
Bennington	0	0	0	1
Caledonia	0	0	0	3
Chittenden	1	0	0	33
Essex	0	0	0	1
Franklin	0	0	0	0
Grand Isle	0	0	0	0
Lamoille	0	0	0	1
Orange	0	0	0	2
Orleans	0	0	0	9
Rutland	2	0	0	7
Washington	0	0	0	15
Windham	0	0	0	8
Windsor	0	0	0	0

VDH Immunization Program Update

COVID Vaccine Plan for 2 – 11 year olds (*thank you, Merideth Plumpton, Nurse Program Coordinator*)

- Expect approval anytime from fall to early winter
- State plan includes clinics in various settings
- Primary care involvement
- Provider survey
- Start speaking with patients and families now
- VDH now interviewing for Immunization Program Manager
- **From today's "chat"**: currently no recommendation from FDA, CDC, ACIP or VDH for boosters. Per CDC: since under EUA, deviation from recommendations may have increased liability if adverse event. ACIP meeting **this Friday** re: booster doses for Immunocompromised individuals.

From the CDC (this slide added *after* today's call)

- **CDC strengthens COVID-19 vaccine recommendation for pregnant women**
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/recommendations/pregnancy.html>
- “COVID-19 vaccination is recommended for all people 12 years and older, including people who are pregnant, breastfeeding, trying to get pregnant now, or might become pregnant in the future.”
 - Evidence about the safety & effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccination during pregnancy has been growing. These data suggest that the benefits of receiving a COVID-19 vaccine outweigh any known or potential risks of vaccination during pregnancy.
- Currently no evidence that any vaccines, including COVID-19 vaccines, cause fertility problems in women or men.
- Although overall risk of severe illness is low, pregnant and recently pregnant people are at increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19 when compared with non-pregnant people...also at increased risk of preterm birth and might be at increased risk of other adverse pregnancy outcomes.

From the CDC/MMWR

- *Use of COVID-19 Vaccines After Reports of Adverse Events Among Adult Recipients of Janssen (Johnson & Johnson) & mRNA COVID-19 Vaccines (Pfizer-BioNTech & Moderna): Update from the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices – United States, July 2021 (early release 8/10/21) – Summary:*
 - **Already known:** Rare serious adverse events have been reported after COVID-19 vaccination, including Guillain-Barré syndrome (GBS) & thrombosis with thrombocytopenia syndrome (TTS) after Janssen COVID-19 vaccination and myocarditis after mRNA (Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna) COVID-19 vaccination.
 - **Added by this report:** On July 22, 2021, the ACIP reviewed updated benefit-risk analyses after Janssen and mRNA COVID-19 vaccination & concluded that the benefits outweigh the risks for rare serious adverse events after COVID-19 vaccination.
 - **Implications for public health practice:** Continued COVID-19 vaccination will prevent COVID-19 M & M far exceeding GBS, TTS, & myocarditis cases expected. Info about rare adverse events should be disseminated to providers, vaccine recipients, and the public.

AAP Updates

- August is National Immunization Awareness Month – see AAP Toolkit.
- **Updated/New Interim Guidance:** <https://services.aap.org/en/pages/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-infections/clinical-guidance/>
 - **Supporting the Emotional and Behavioral Health Needs of Children** (*revised 7/28/21*): includes new information on managing uncertainty, screening for mental health concerns and helping children who have lost a parent. There also are updates on use of telehealth, fear and anxiety, peer relationships and parental well-being.
 - **Post-COVID-19 Conditions in Children and Adolescents** (*new 7/28/21*): severity does not predict subsequent/ongoing sx's; can lead to secondary (subacute-severe) conditions.
 - Recommends all patients who test positive for SARS-CoV-2 infection have at least one follow-up conversation or visit w/pediatrician to: discuss residual symptoms (may include respiratory symptoms, cardiac symptoms, fatigue or cognitive fogginess); explore new symptoms & guide their return to activities; determine if the child/adolescent might require additional academic supports (e.g., gradual return to school & cognitive activities based on tolerance); offer guidance on rest periods & other accommodations. Some patients may require pediatric subspecialty support; those w/underlying medical or behavioral conditions may require additional support.

AAP Updates

- **Updated Interim Guidance**

- **COVID-19 Interim Guidance: Return to Sports and Physical Activity (8/2/21):**

- includes overview of repercussions from lack of athletic/physical fitness opportunities for youth; stresses importance of high-yield risk mitigation strategies; clarifies recommendations for face mask use in sports; modifies post-illness medical clearance, & encourages people to receive a COVID-19 vaccine as soon as eligible.

- <https://services.aap.org/en/pages/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-infections/clinical-guidance/covid-19-interim-guidance-return-to-sports/>

- Advocacy Report: <https://downloads.aap.org/DOFA/Advocacy%20Report%2011.0.pdf>

- AAP continues to follow **pediatric data**: some major children's hospitals (AL, AR, LA, FL) have had more children in their care than at any other point in the pandemic. AAP weekly report on child cases/hospitalizations calculated that "children made up between 1.3% and 3.6% of total reported hospitalizations."

- <https://downloads.aap.org/AAP/PDF/AAP%20and%20CHA%20-%20Children%20and%20COVID-19%20State%20Data%20Report%207.22%20FINAL.pdf>

RSV, Palivizumab, & New AAP Interim Clinical Guidance

- ❑ Question had been raised re: extending Synagis coverage for NICU at risk patients & considering initiating treatment for eligible infants recently or to be discharged (and payment for same).
- ❑ Sought DVHA policy re: “extending” RSV season (beyond March); DVHA Policy Team met 7/20/21
 - ❑ Synagis code should be activated; requires prior approval during summer season (will be approved if meets criteria). Code may be turned off if RSV activity declines.
- ❑ **AAP New Interim Clinical Guidance now available: *Use of Palivizumab Prophylaxis to Prevent Hospitalization from Severe Respiratory Syncytial Virus Infection During the Current Atypical Interseasonal RSV Spread.*** <https://services.aap.org/en/pages/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-infections/clinical-guidance/interim-guidance-for-use-of-palivizumab-prophylaxis-to-prevent-hospitalization/>

Oh, Canada!

- Canadian government opened land border to fully vaccinated Americans 8/9/21 (with proof of vaccine, proof of negative COVID test, passport, & registration for ArriveCAN app).

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/coronavirus-disease-covid-19/arrivecan.html>

- Per guidance from U.S. Department of State, United States citizens and permanent residents returning from Canada are considered essential travelers and will be able to reenter the United States. For specific documentation and questions about reentry to the United States, SEE U.S. Customs and Border Control. You can find ports of entry here:

<https://www.cbp.gov/contact/ports>.



News

- The Lancet Child & Adolescent Health: *Illness duration and symptom profile in symptomatic UK school-aged children tested for SARS-CoV-2.*
 - ▣ Although COVID-19 in children is usually of short duration with low symptom burden, some children with COVID-19 experience prolonged illness duration...symptom burden in these children did not increase with time, and most recovered by day 56. Some children who tested negative for SARS-CoV-2 also had persistent and burdensome illness.
 - ▣ [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanchi/article/PIIS2352-4642\(21\)00198-X/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanchi/article/PIIS2352-4642(21)00198-X/fulltext)
- From the NYT: *We Studied One Million Students. This Is What We Learned About Masking (August 10, 2021)*
 - ▣ In schools that choose to open without mask mandates and with limited vaccine uptakes, increased Covid is likely. Until all children can get vaccinated, masks remain a well-researched solution for lowering the risk of getting Covid.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/08/10/opinion/covid-schools-masks.html>

Tuesday Media Briefing (8/10/21)



Governor Phil Scott

- ❑ No White House call today – expect one next week.
- ❑ Vermonters concerned as we see rise in Delta variant across U.S. & in VT; built very strong foundation for defense here in VT – helps dampen impact.
- ❑ Seeing rise in cases/hosps. among unvaccinated – based on modeling, expect case increase over next few weeks – even as approach 85% vax rate; ~ 85K eligible still not vaccinated + <12 yo. (may allow Delta spread).
- ❑ Applaud employers/institutions requiring employees to be vaccinated (UVM, DHMC, MAH, Brattleboro) – believe all hospitals, long-term care, and similar should require.
- ❑ **Working toward vax requirement for state employees, starting Veteran’s Home, correctional facilities, & psychiatric hospital – details to follow.**

Tuesday Media Briefing (cont'd.)



VT Department of Labor Commissioner Michael Harrington

- ❑ CARES Act benefits expire 9/4/21: Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA), Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC), & Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC – added \$300/wk.)
- ❑ As of 7/1/21, 14,900 filing for weekly benefits; expect ~10K no longer eligible after 9/4 (will see drop when supplemental benefits end).
- ❑ Dept. of Labor will help move people into labor force; several communications to claimants.
 - ❑ Job centers throughout the state are open to in-person and virtual services.
 - ❑ More than 8,800 jobs in VTJoblink.
 - ❑ DOL offers sessions on resume writing & interviewing.
- ❑ More info at: www.labor.vermont.gov/jobs

Tuesday Media Briefing (cont'd.)



Modeling – VT DFR Commissioner Pieciak:

- U.S. cases continue to increase: average up from 78K to 110K/day. Largely clustered South, but felt in all regions, incl. ours.
- Rate of new people getting vaccinated is highest in 2 months; rate of growth has slowed in VT/regionally/nationally. Matches trends from around the world (India & UK). We expect cases will peak next 2-3 weeks & then decline.
 - Vermont case and hospitalization rate of rise is significantly slower than other states.
- Vermont continues to make progress in its nation-leading vaccination rates.
- Since last Tuesday, 2,763 Vermonters have been vaccinated, an increase of 12% from last week. We continue to maintain our #1 position in vaccination.

Tuesday Media Briefing (cont'd.)



AHS Secretary Mike Smith

- ❑ Many vaccine opportunities: walk-in & school-located vaccine clinics (38 this week!)
- ❑ Adding hours to Burlington's Pine St. site & opening new testing location in Burlington VDH District Office (should help meet increased demand).
- ❑ When to get tested?
 - ▣ If any sx's, test & quarantine per guidance: unvaccinated w/known exposure, test at day 7.
 - ▣ Fully vaccinated & known exposure: if no sx's, no need for quarantine. If you want to be tested for reassurance, consider test at day 3-5.
- ❑ Given case rise, ramping up efforts at school & generally. Want to support schools to get to 80% benchmark. Vaccine clinics starting this week & next.

Tuesday Media Briefing (cont'd.)



VDH Commissioner Levine

- ❑ 3 key words: Vaccination, vaccination, vaccination. This is the most important action any of us could take.
- ❑ According to a recent Yale study, the vaccines are estimated to have saved 279,000 lives and prevented 1.25 million hospitalizations.
- ❑ Vermont: 84.6% w/at least 1 dose (first in U.S.)
- ❑ Virus continues to evolve: currently most contagious variant firmly established in U.S. & is in close to 90% of our genome sequencing.
- ❑ Still > 80,000 VTers not vaccinated; have seen uptick in vaccine demand. About 2% of our cases this year have been in vaccinated Vermonters, which is less than 0.4% of the vaccinated being infected.

Tuesday Media Briefing (cont'd.)



VDH Commissioner Levine

- Masking: If you are unvaccinated, we encourage you to wear masks in public indoor spaces. If you are vaccinated and choose to wear a mask, that's OK, too.
- Do what makes sense for you and your personal comfort level. The science hasn't changed. Masking protects you and those around you.
- Testing: If you have symptoms, or were exposed, or were in a high-risk situation, get tested. It's best to make an appointment if you can.

Practice Issues

Partnering with Vermont School Nurses to Support a Safe Return to School



<https://www.burlingtonfreepress.com/>

AAP-VT Outreach to Superintendents, Principals, School Boards, VSSNA

- ❑ ***Vermont Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics Guidance on Masking and Return to School*** (August 10, 2021)
- ❑ AAP-VT fully supports the administration's emphasis on getting students in-person full-time this school year & w/recommendation that schools require universal masking of all students and staff regardless of vaccination status to begin the school year.
- ❑ VT pediatricians continue to support universal masking regardless of vaccination status as an important mitigation strategy to prevent spread of COVID-19 in the school setting. Masking will also help prevent the spread of other common respiratory viruses that can mimic the signs and symptoms of COVID-19. We feel strongly that universal masking should continue for students and staff in each school building until those under 12 years of age have had the opportunity to be vaccinated and when epidemiologic data tells us it is safe to remove them.

AAP-VT Outreach to Superintendents, Principals, School Boards, VSSNA

- ***Vermont Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics***
Guidance on Masking and Return to School (August 10, 2021 – cont'd.)
- We know that distancing of students has been difficult to implement in school buildings, and while we know that layers of mitigation are best, the benefits of children being in school outweigh the risks. Therefore, we support schools not implementing distancing measures, but strongly recommend that schools pay special attention to distancing at times when students are eating in groups unmasked. This may mean eating in shifts or at alternative locations.
- We also want to stress the importance of the stay home when sick guidance as outlined in the Agency of Education/Department of Health memo. Students and staff who are sick should stay home. AAP-VT will be working with the Vermont Child Health Improvement Program to update the guidance this week.

AAP-VT Outreach to Superintendents, Principals, School Boards, VSSNA

- ***Vermont Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics***
Guidance on Masking and Return to School (August 10, 2021 – cont'd.)
- Finally, thank you to everyone involved in the education and care of Vermont's young people. We thank you for the endless work and dedication you show to your students. We want you to know that we are here to collaborate to keep our kids in school and safe in the year to come. If you would like to connect with your local pediatrician, please contact Stephanie Winters at swinters@vtmd.org.

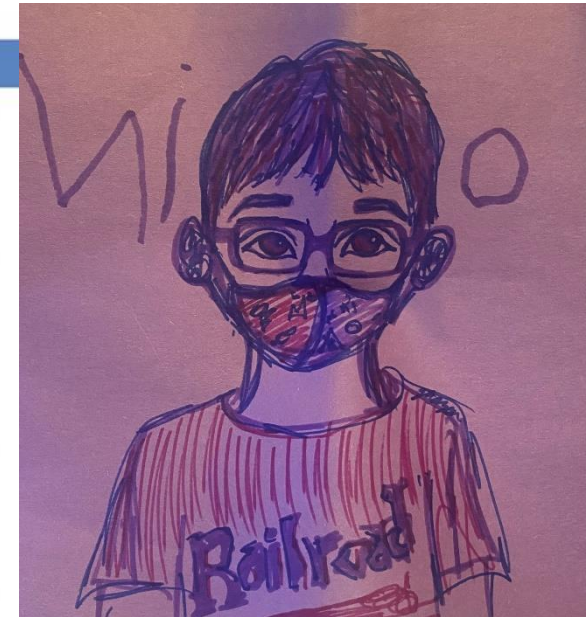
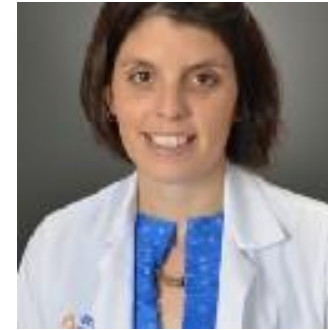
Sincerely,
Becca Bell, M.D.
President

From AAP-VT Chapter President Rebecca Bell, MD FAAP

Blog post (8/10/21):

- ***Going Back to School During Delta***

- Prioritization of in-person learning
- Vaccination, vaccination, vaccination
- Stay home when sick
- Masking



- *“Pediatricians believe a healthy, safe, and productive school year is essential and achievable. We just all need to do our part to make it happen.”*

<https://rebeccabell-md.medium.com/going-back-to-school-during-delta-a262a9812b7f>

Vermont State School Nurses Association (VSSNA)

- Becca McCray, MSN MA RN NCSN – VSSNA President
- Soph Hall (*Sophia Boyle Hall*), MEd, RN, NCSN – VSSNA Immediate Past President
- Clayton S. Wetzel III, BSN, RN, NCSN – VSSNA Webmaster
- <https://www.vssna.org/home>
- Find them on Facebook!



Partnering to Support a Safe Return to School

- Topics under discussion for clarification, coordination:
 - ▣ Masking
 - ▣ Student surveillance testing
 - ▣ Contact tracing in schools
 - ▣ Algorithm: return to school following exposure/symptoms/illness
 - ▣ **COVID Coordinator** role – assuring school administrative support for this role

AAP-VT Resources



Available for your use!

- PowerPoint presentation
- Video message from AAP-VT Chapter President Rebecca Bell: *“We are so excited that the COVID Vaccine is available for young people....”*
- Posters for your office
- SEE ALSO AAPVT press release 6/10/21:

<http://www.aapvt.org/news/aapvt-offers-guidance-families-children-how-navigate-summer-and-stay-healthy-and-active>

5 REASONS TEENS SHOULD GET THE COVID VACCINE



Vermont Chapter

INCORPORATED IN VERMONT

American Academy of Pediatrics
DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN®



Additional References (added after last week's call)

Thank you, Ben Lee and Bill Raszka!

- Information re: Israel (lay literature):

<https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/coronavirus-delta-variant-is-50-percent-more-infectious-israeli-top-official-says-1.10068650>

- Pfizer data:

<https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2021.07.28.21261159v1.full.pdf>

- NYT: *Germany Will Offer Vaccine Booster Shots Starting in September.*

- ▣ In rich countries, momentum is growing for giving additional doses to fully vaccinated, though many experts say the focus should be on getting first doses to people around the world.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/08/02/world/europe/coronavirus-booster-shots-germany.html>

VCHIP-VDH COVID-19 calls: Summer Calendar

- **July**: generally **Wednesdays only**
- **August**: generally **Wednesdays only (next call August 18)**
 - ▣ Subject to change as we approach school reopening!
- **September forward – TBD!**
 - ▣ **No calls on September 1 or September 15**
- Schedule **subject to change** at any time if circumstances warrant!
- *Please continue to send your feedback re: schedule/topics to vchip.champ@med.uvm.edu*
- VMS calls with VDH Commissioner Levine now select Thursdays only (see next slide)



Questions/Discussion

- Q & A Goal: monitor/respond in real time; record/disseminate/revisit later as needed.
- **For additional questions, please e-mail:** vchip.champ@med.uvm.edu
 - ▣ **What do you need** – how can we be helpful (specific guidance)?
- **VCHIP CHAMP VDH COVID-19 website:**
https://www.med.uvm.edu/vchip/projects/vchip_champ_vdh_covid-19_updates
- Next CHAMP call – **Wednesday, August 18, 12:15 – 12:45 pm**
- **SEE VCHIP-VDH COVID-19 Call Summer Calendar** for our new schedule!
- Please tune in to VMS call with VDH Commissioner Levine:
Thursday, August 19, 2021 – 12:30-1:00 p.m. – Zoom platform & call information
- **Join Zoom Meeting:**
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86726253105?pwd=VkVuNTJlZlFQZ2R3diSVdqdJ2ZG4yQT09>
 - ▣ Meeting ID: 867 2625 3105 / Password: 540684