



Pediatric COVID-19 trends in Wisconsin – Nov. 10

Each week, Children's Wisconsin will provide hospital census information to help our community better understand how respiratory illnesses, including COVID-19 and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), are impacting kids. As the only health system in the state dedicated to the health of kids, Children's Wisconsin has the largest pediatric intensive care unit in the state. Check back on Wednesdays for the latest update.

This week's takeaway

"We are excited and encouraged by the rollout of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine for kids age 5 to 11. This is important as COVID-19 cases in kids are continuing to be stubbornly steady. We'd like to see these numbers begin to reduce more, especially given a recent rise in cases of Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children (MIS-C). While cases of MIS-C remain rare, we are seeing an increase at Children's Wisconsin, which reflects the data we're seeing from the Wisconsin Department of Health Services. The COVID-19 vaccine can help protect kids from COVID-19 infection and its complications, including MIS-C, giving us yet another reason to encourage everyone eligible to get the vaccine as soon as possible. As always, we want to emphasize mitigation efforts to help keep kids healthy — wear your mask, watch your distance, wash your hands, work or attend school only when well, and get vaccinated when you are eligible."

- Michael Gutzeit, MD, chief medical officer, Children's Wisconsin

What has changed since last week

- **Children's Wisconsin begins vaccinating kids ages 5-11:** All 20+ Children's Wisconsin primary care offices are providing the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine to kids age 5+. More than 5,000 appointments for a COVID-19 vaccination were scheduled at a Children's Wisconsin location in the past week, and the partnership with the Milwaukee Health Department to provide vaccinations at Milwaukee area schools is underway.
- **Hospitalizations at Children's Wisconsin decline, while cases of RSV increase:** Over the last week, the percent of rooms occupied at Children's Wisconsin Hospital-Milwaukee declined slightly along with the percent of rooms occupied in the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) and the percent of patients in isolation. However, cases of RSV seen at Children's Wisconsin Hospital-Milwaukee increased from 8 to 14.
- **Cases of Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children (MIS-C) on the rise:** A condition where different organs can become inflamed, MIS-C does not have a clear cause. However, many children with MIS-C had the virus that causes COVID-19, or had been around someone with COVID-19. According to the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS), the average age of confirmed MIS-C cases is 8, highlighting the importance of getting kids 5-11 years old vaccinated now that they're eligible. Nationwide, more than 60 percent of reported MIS-C cases have occurred in children who are Hispanic or Latino, or Non-Hispanic Black. In Wisconsin, more than 50 percent of MIS-C cases occur in people who are Black or African American, Hispanic or Latinx, or Asian or Pacific Islander, despite these communities of color representing less than 20 percent of the state population.

What continues to be a focus

- **Mitigation is vital:** In other parts of the country, schools in communities with lower vaccinations rates and less stringent mitigation efforts appear to experience more outbreaks. Until more eligible kids receive the COVID-19 vaccine, masks continue to be the best way to protect kids from COVID-19 and other respiratory illnesses. Two

studies published by the CDC provide additional evidence that masks protect children from COVID-19, even when community rates are high and the more contagious Delta variant is circulating.

- **The W’s (and a V):** To decrease the chance of seeing kids hospitalized in Wisconsin due to COVID-19 or other respiratory illnesses, we need everyone to **wear masks, watch their distance, wash their hands, work or attend school only when well,** and to **get the COVID-19 and flu vaccines** when they are eligible.

Deadline for Children’s Wisconsin vaccination requirement is Nov. 15

- **Compliance surpasses 90 percent:** With one week to go until the deadline, 92.8 percent of Children’s Wisconsin staff and providers are in compliance with the COVID-19 vaccination requirement.
- **Doctors and nurses lead vaccination effort:** Nearly 100 percent of Children’s Wisconsin doctors have already met the requirement, and Children’s Wisconsin nurses continue to have a higher compliance rate than the system overall.
- **Caring for the sickest kids:** Our responsibility to care for the sickest kids in the state led us to require all employees to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. Not only does this provide the safest environment for kids in our hospitals, it helps to reduce the chance of exposure in the community.

Data

Average daily occupancy trends at Children’s Wisconsin Hospital-Milwaukee

The average daily occupancy at Children’s Wisconsin Hospital-Milwaukee		
	% of rooms occupied	% of rooms occupied in the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU)
Nov. 3-9	65%	73%
Oct. 27-Nov. 2	68%	79%
Oct. 20-26	69%	74%
Oct. 13-19	70%	72%
Oct. 6-12	72%	82%
Sept. 29-Oct. 5	72%	82%
Sept. 22-28	71%	78%
Sept. 15-21	68%	78%
Sept. 8-14	68%	79%
	% of patients in isolation	% of patients in isolation for a respiratory illness <i>(including COVID-19 and RSV)</i>
Nov. 3-9	31%	21%
Oct. 27-Nov. 2	32%	21%
Oct. 20-26	33%	21%
Oct. 13-19	31%	20%
Oct. 6-12	37%	26%
Sept. 29-Oct. 5	33%	25%
Sept. 22-28	37%	28%
Sept. 15-21	34%	26%
Sept. 8-14	31%	24%

Respiratory virus trends seen at Children’s Wisconsin Hospital-Milwaukee

Average daily number of children admitted to Children’s Wisconsin Hospital-Milwaukee who tested positive with a respiratory virus				
Average # hospitalized with:	COVID-19	RSV	Rhinovirus	Influenza
Week of Nov. 9	6	14	9	0
Week of Nov. 2	8	8	8	0
Week of Oct. 26	7	10	9	0
Week of Oct. 19	6	8	8	0
Week of Oct. 12	11	14	11	0
Week of Oct. 5	11	16	11	0
Week of Sept. 28	12	16	13	0
Week of Sept. 21	10	15	11	0
Week of Sept. 14	5	17	9	0

Confirmed pediatric COVID-19 cases

Confirmed COVID-19 cases statewide for kids 0-17 based on [Wisconsin Department of Health Services database](#).

Confirmed COVID-19 cases statewide	Total	Age 0-3	Age 4-8	Age 9-13	Age 14-17
Week of Oct. 24	3,417	380	1,002	1,308	727
Week of Oct. 17	3,386	420	905	1,271	790
Week of Oct. 10	3,660	427	943	1,256	1,034
Week of Oct. 3	4,180	375	969	1,463	1,373
Week of Sept. 26	4,667	495	1,063	1,620	1,489
Week of Sept. 19	5,279	524	1,237	1,873	1,645
Week of Sept. 12	5,604	494	1,300	1,949	1,861
Week of Sept. 5	4,403	491	1,125	1,433	1,354
Week of Aug. 29	3,104	405	796	961	942
Week of Aug. 22	2,346	378	634	693	641
Week of Aug. 15	2,109	347	559	632	571

**The latest information from the Wisconsin Department of Health Services is still preliminary and will continue to be updated by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services as cases are investigated and confirmed.*

National and state context

- Since Oct. 26, the hospitalization rate of those age 0-17 with COVID-19 in Wisconsin has decreased.
- According to the latest data from the CDC, last week, some states continued to see a plateauing or decreasing COVID-19 hospitalization rate in those 0-17 years old. Many saw another increase, including some states around Wisconsin. Iowa’s hospitalization rate almost doubled, while Michigan and Minnesota are nearing their previously highest hospitalization rates.

State	COVID-19 hospitalization rate age 0-17 (As of Nov. 2)	Previous highest hospitalization rate age 0-17
Wisconsin	.26	.61 on Sept. 25, 2021
Florida	.20	1.61 on Aug. 30, 2021
Georgia	.18	2.23 on Aug. 13, 2021

Idaho	.32	.8 on Sept. 28, 2021
Illinois	.04	.31 on Nov. 11, 2020
Iowa	.33	.83 on Nov. 20, 2020
Louisiana	.04	1.2 on Aug. 15, 2021
Michigan	.45	.5 on April 16, 2021
Minnesota	.34	.42 on Dec. 11, 2020
Montana	.69	3.31 on Oct. 2, 2020
Ohio	.50	1.01 on Sept. 21, 2021
Tennessee	.18	1.12 on Sept. 5, 2021
Texas	.20	.92 on Sept. 4, 2021

Current hospitalization rates are an average of how many kids, age 0-17, out of 100,000 are hospitalized. For example, on Sept. 25, an average of .61 children out of 100,000 were hospitalized in Wisconsin with COVID-19, though many of those kids were hospitalized for other reasons. To see more of this data, please visit the [COVID-19 Data Tracker](#) from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

For more information and data specific to pediatric cases of COVID-19, visit the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's website](#).