



Pediatric COVID-19 trends in Wisconsin – Nov. 17

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 encouraged by the interest we've seen in families to get younger kids vaccinated against COVID-19 and want to encourage the same enthusiasm for flu vaccination. With the holidays fast approaching, we want families to remember that if their child gets their first COVID-19 vaccine this week, they could be fully vaccinated by Christmas. And it only takes one shot for kids to be protected from the flu. With COVID-19 cases again on the rise and a flu season upon us, I hope families continue to get their kids vaccinated. The more people who are vaccinated against COVID-19 and influenza before the holidays, the more likely we can prevent disruptions to celebrations and have the entire family start the New Year healthy."

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

What has changed since last week

- **Hospitalizations at Children's Wisconsin remain steady, while cases of COVID-19 double:** Over the last week, the percent of rooms occupied at Children's Wisconsin Hospital-Milwaukee remained steady. However, the number of children who tested positive for COVID-19 while hospitalized at Children's Wisconsin Hospital-Milwaukee doubled from 6 to 12.
- **Percent of COVID-19 cases in kids rises along with state-wide hospitalization rate:** According to the latest data available from the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS), 26 percent of confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Wisconsin on Nov. 7 were in those under the age of 18. This is up from 21 percent in October. This, along with the increased cases of COVID-19 seen at Children's Wisconsin and an increase in the hospitalization rate in kids statewide, indicates kids in the community are increasingly testing positive and continue to contribute to the spread of the virus.
- **Children's Wisconsin began vaccinating kids ages 5-11:** All 20+ Children's Wisconsin primary care offices are providing the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine to kids 5 years old and older. More than 7,000 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, with walk-in clinics scheduled now through Nov. 23.
- **First signs of 2021-2022 flu season seen in the United States:** The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports an increase in flu activity, which can potentially mark the beginning of the 2021-2022 flu season. The majority of flu activity was seen in young adults and children. Of note, the University of Michigan has reported a large and sudden increase in cases of flu among students on the Ann Arbor campus.

What continues to be a focus

- **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 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.

- **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 passes

- **Final compliance is 99 percent:** We are grateful to the 99 percent of Children's Wisconsin team members who met the Nov. 15 COVID-19 and influenza vaccination deadline.
- **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, in addition to our annual influenza vaccine requirement. 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. 10-16	64%	73%
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 (including COVID-19 and RSV)
Nov. 10-16	32%	22%
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
Nov. 10-16	12	9	7	0
Nov. 3-9	6	14	9	0
Oct. 27-Nov. 2	8	8	8	0
Oct. 20-26	7	10	9	0
Oct. 13-19	6	8	8	0
Oct. 6-12	11	14	11	0
Sept. 29-Oct. 5	11	16	11	0
Sept. 22-28	12	16	13	0
Sept. 15-21	10	15	11	0
Sept. 8-14	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. 31	4,401	525	1,350	1,676	850
Week of Oct. 24	3,506	389	1,034	1,340	743
Week of Oct. 17	3,388	424	909	1,270	785
Week of Oct. 10	3,667	428	943	1,259	1,037
Week of Oct. 3	4,180	373	970	1,464	1,373
Week of Sept. 26	4,670	496	1,062	1,621	1,491
Week of Sept. 19	5,279	525	1,235	1,873	1,646
Week of Sept. 12	5,608	494	1,302	1,949	1,863
Week of Sept. 5	4,403	491	1,125	1,433	1,354
Week of Aug. 29	3,107	406	797	961	943
Week of Aug. 22	2,352	380	634	694	644
Week of Aug. 15	2,118	349	562	633	574

**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 last week, the hospitalization rate of those age 0-17 with COVID-19 in Wisconsin has increased from .26 to .33.

- 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 Colorado and Utah, which are both seeing their highest hospitalization rate yet.

State	COVID-19 hospitalization rate age 0-17 (As of Nov. 9)	Previous highest hospitalization rate age 0-17
Wisconsin	.33	.61 on Sept. 25, 2021
Colorado	.62	.57 on Nov. 16, 2020
Illinois	.05	.31 on Nov. 11, 2020
Iowa	.29	.83 on Nov. 20, 2020
Michigan	.42	.50 on April 16, 2021
Minnesota	.34	.42 on Dec. 11, 2020
Utah	.51	.64 on Nov. 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](#).