



Pediatric COVID-19 trends in Wisconsin – Nov. 3

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

“Last night’s decision by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to approve the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine for kids ages 5-11 is exciting. It is noteworthy that both the FDA and CDC advisory committees nearly unanimously recommended the approval for kids in this age range. The bottom line is the more kids who are eligible and get the vaccine, the more who are being protected and protecting those around them. That leads to fewer disruptions to school, and fewer hospitalizations and deaths — all things we are all hoping for as soon as possible. As always, we want to encourage mitigation efforts to help us get there — 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

- **The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) approves COVID-19 vaccine for children age 5-11:** On Nov. 2, the CDC endorsed the use of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine for kids 5-11. This decision follows the unanimous recommendation by the CDC's Independent Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices and last week's emergency use authorization by the FDA.
- **Children's Wisconsin to start vaccinating kids ages 5-11 as soon as possible:** All 20+ Children's Wisconsin primary care offices will provide the COVID-19 vaccine to those 5-11 years old as soon as possible. This will happen after the CDC provides specific clinical considerations for this age range and vaccine, and the team is able to get the proper training and approval from the Wisconsin Department of Health Services for administering this vaccine.
- **Hospitalizations at Children's Wisconsin remained steady, but intensive care needs increase:** Over the last week, the percent of rooms occupied at Children's Wisconsin Hospital-Milwaukee declined slightly, while the percent of rooms occupied in the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) increased. This indicates that Children's Wisconsin continues to see fewer children at the hospital each week, but more of those admitted are in need of intensive care.

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 kids age 12-17 receive the COVID-19 vaccine and the age eligibility is lowered, 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 two weeks to go until the deadline, 91.29 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 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)
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)
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. 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. 17	3,270	402	866	1,227	775
Week of Oct. 10	3,681	425	945	1,264	1,047
Week of Oct. 3	4,189	378	970	1,460	1,381
Week of Sept. 26	4,631	490	1,047	1,612	1,482
Week of Sept. 19	5,264	521	1,234	1,868	1,641
Week of Sept. 12	5,598	494	1,299	1,947	1,858
Week of Sept. 5	4,393	491	1,122	1,427	1,353
Week of Aug. 29	3,100	405	795	961	939
Week of Aug. 22	2,343	377	633	692	641
Week of Aug. 15	2,111	348	559	633	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. 19, the hospitalization rate of those age 0-17 with COVID-19 in Wisconsin has increased slightly.
- 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. However, some states are continuing to see another spike in hospitalization rate for that age group, including Montana where vaccination rates are low. When compared to the hospitalization rate reported last week, Montana continues to climb from .94 to 1.31. Michigan has also seen an increase over the past two weeks, getting closer to its previous highest hospitalization rate.

State	COVID-19 hospitalization rate age 0-17 (As of Oct. 26)	Previous highest hospitalization rate age 0-17
Wisconsin	.34	.61 on Sept. 25, 2021
Florida	.24	1.61 on Aug. 30, 2021
Georgia	.11	2.23 on Aug. 13, 2021
Idaho	.16	.8 on Sept. 28, 2021
Illinois	.09	.31 on Nov. 11, 2020
Iowa	.18	.83 on Nov. 20, 2020
Louisiana	.14	1.2 on Aug. 15, 2021
Michigan	.32	.5 on April 16, 2021
Minnesota	.24	.42 on Dec. 11, 2020
Montana	1.31	3.31 on Oct. 2, 2020

Ohio	.42	1.01 on Sept. 21, 2021
Tennessee	.12	1.12 on Sept. 5, 2021
Texas	.24	.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](#).