COVID-19 Public Health Updates

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Disclosures/Conflict of interest: Currently employed by Pfizer

Table of Contents

Updates from CDC and HHS

- COVID-19 data update from CDC
- CDC COVID-19 pregnancy data page
- Updated CDC travel guidance
- CDC guidance for holiday gatherings
- FDA update on COVID-19 test policies
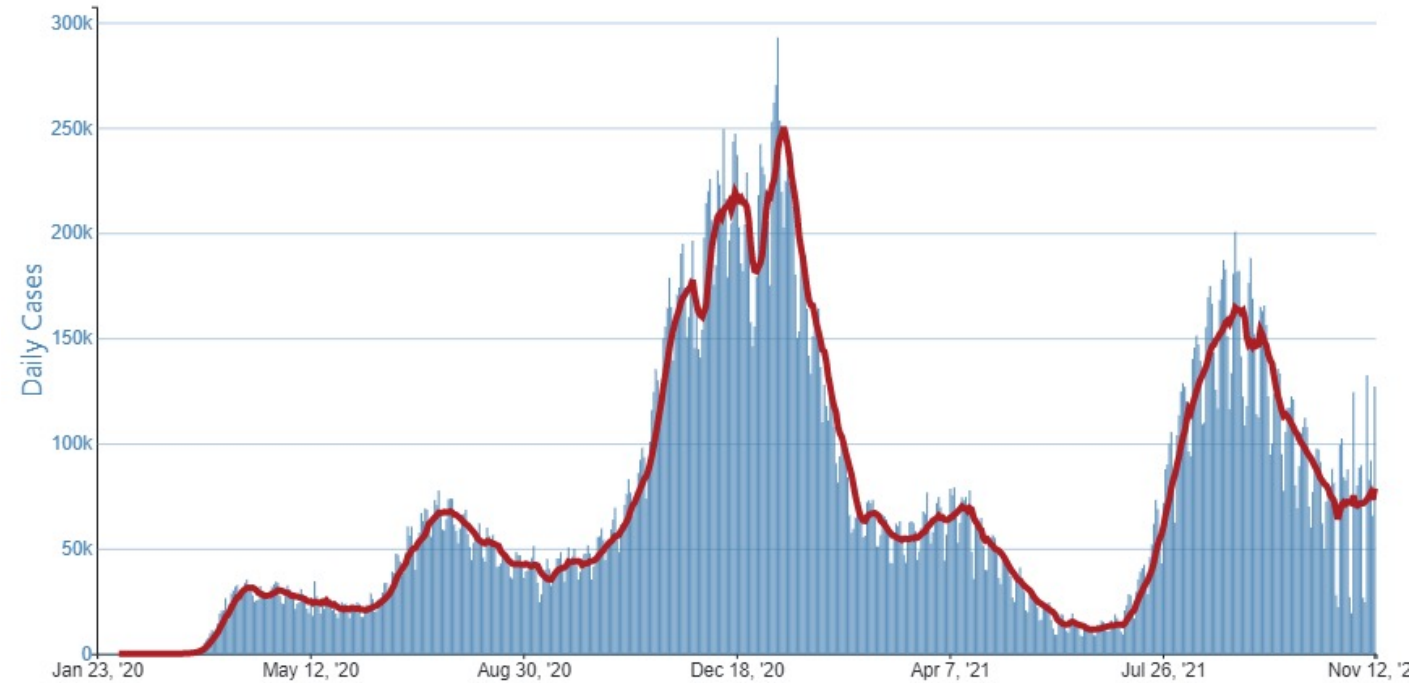- Surgeon General's toolkit for addressing health misinformation

MMWRs

- Influenza vaccination during the COVID pandemic

CDC COVID Data Tracker

- Data on COVID-19 cases, deaths, variants, transmission, vaccination and more
- Data available at the national, state, and county levels

Daily Trends in Number of COVID-19 Cases in The United States Reported to CDC
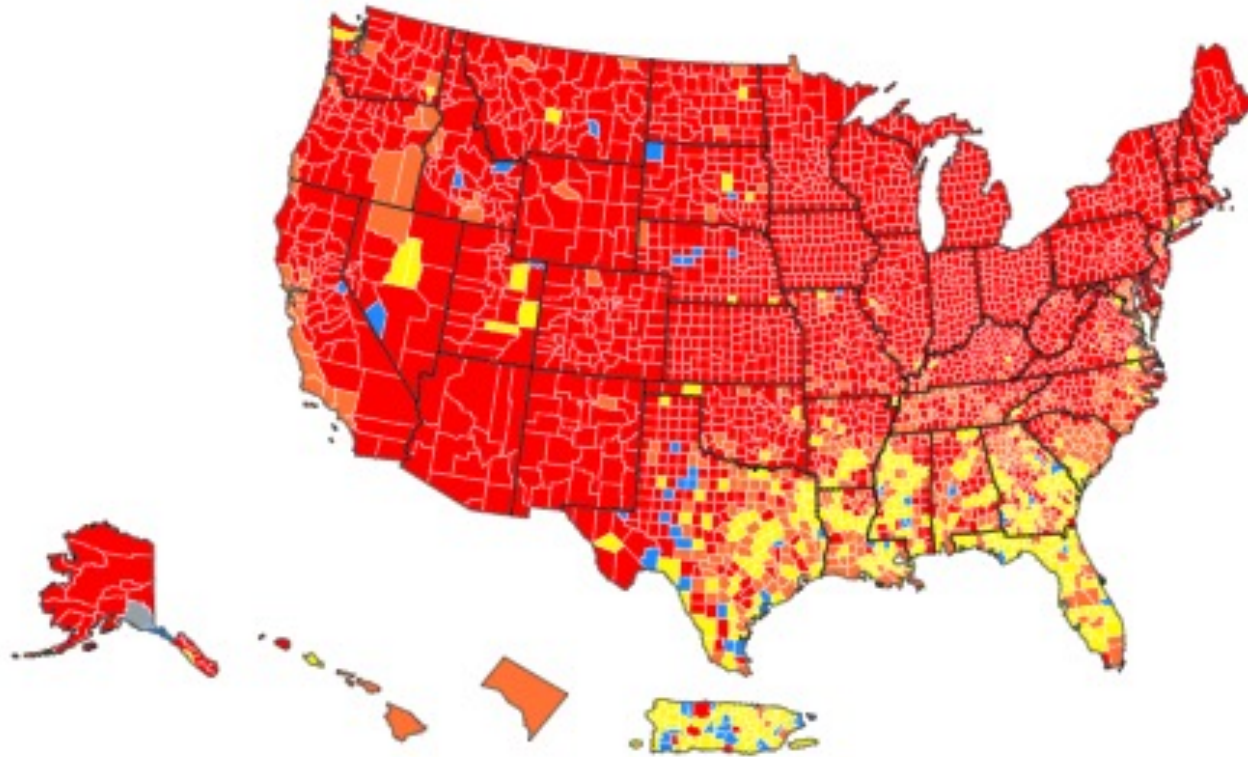
TOTAL CASES	7 DAY CASE RATE PER 100,000	TOTAL DEATHS
46,910,412	165.6	759,552
+126,958 New Cases		+1,846 New Deaths

CDC | Data as of: November 14, 2021 2:07 PM ET. Posted: November 14, 2021 3:40 PM ET

https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/

3

COVID Data Tracker: Community transmission levels by county

Community transmission levels as of 11/13/2021

Determining community transmission

|	Low	Moderate	Substantial	High
New cases per 100,000 persons in the past 7 days*	<10	10-49.99	50-99.99	≥100
Percentage of positive NAATs tests during the past 7 days**	<5%	5-7.99%	8-9.99%	≥10.0%

COVID Data Tracker: Cases by age group

During the recent peak, incidence is highest among children aged 5–11 and 12–15 years

COVID Data Tracker: Cases by race and ethnicity

COVID-19 Weekly Cases per 100,000 Population by Race/Ethnicity, United States

March 01, 2020 - November 13, 2021*
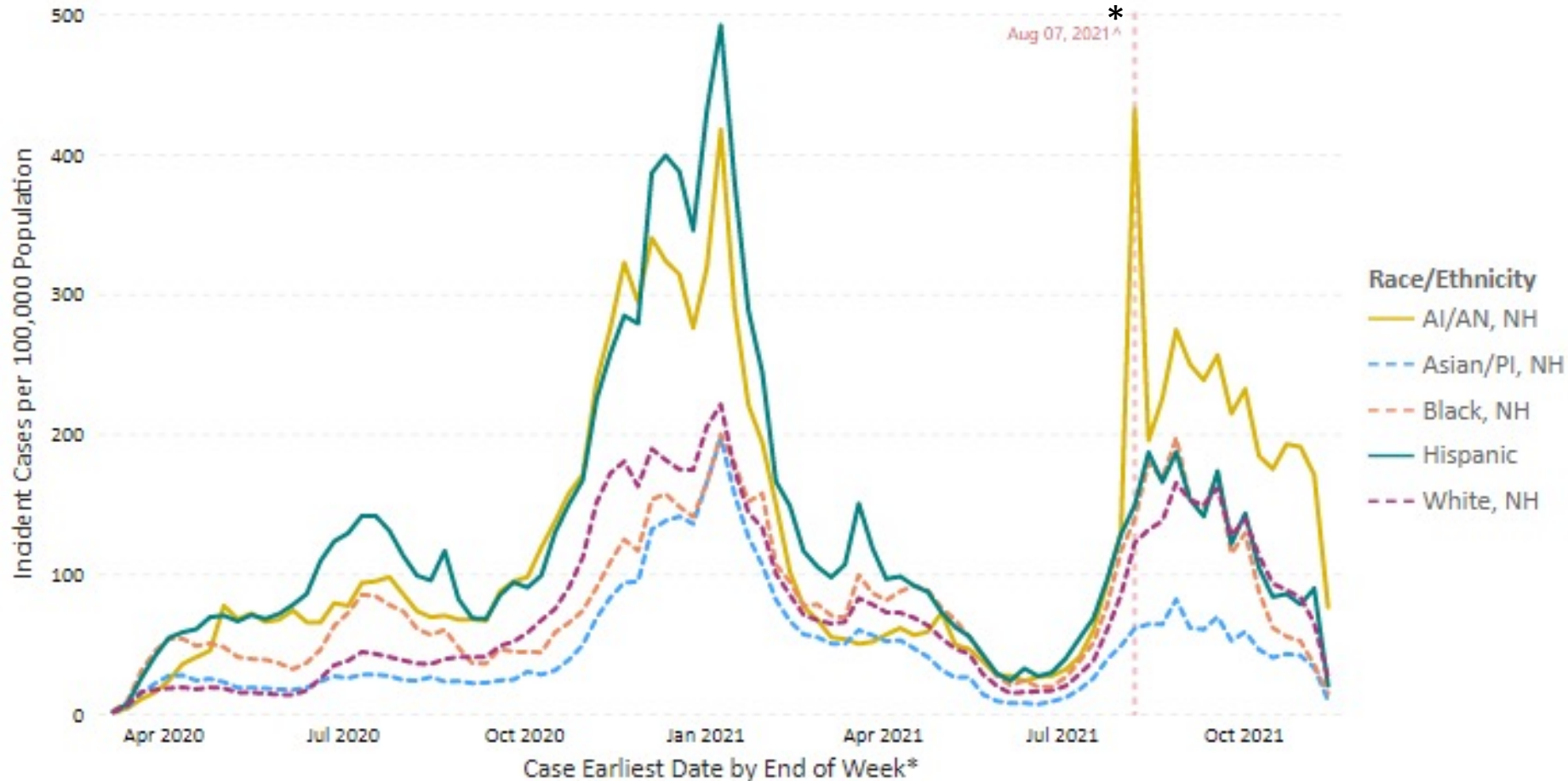
- Race/data ethnicity available from 62.4% of cases
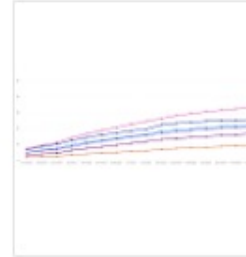- AI/AN persons have been disproportionately affected by COVID-19 throughout the pandemic

*spike on 8/7/21 due to a reporting issue from South Dakota

COVID Data Tracker: New Pregnancy Data page

- People who are pregnant or were recently pregnant are at increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19
- People with COVID-19 during pregnancy are at increased risk for preterm birth
- COVID-19 vaccination is recommended for people who are pregnant, breastfeeding, trying to get pregnant now, or might become pregnant in the future
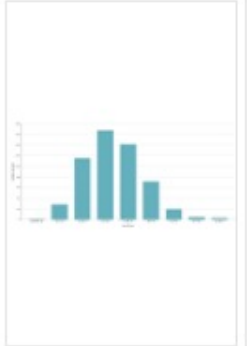
Vaccination Among Pregnant People

View data on COVID-19 vaccination during pregnancy among pregnant people

Birth and Infant Outcomes

View data from SET-NET on delivery type, preterm birth, and infant test results among women with COVID-19 during pregnancy.

COVID-19 Birth Data

View data from the National Center for Health Statistics on births among women with and without COVID-19 by race/ethnicity and other
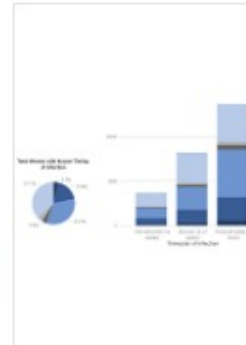
Pregnant People

View data on severity of COVID-19 illness during pregnancy, as well as birth and infant outcomes for women with COVID-19 during pregnancy
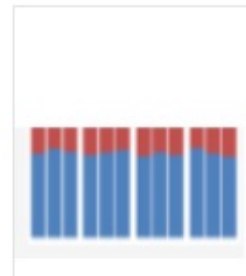
V-safe COVID-19 Vaccine Pregnancy Registry

See information about v-safe participants who were vaccinated just before or during pregnancy and enrolled in the registry.

COVID-NET Hospitalization Surveillance Network

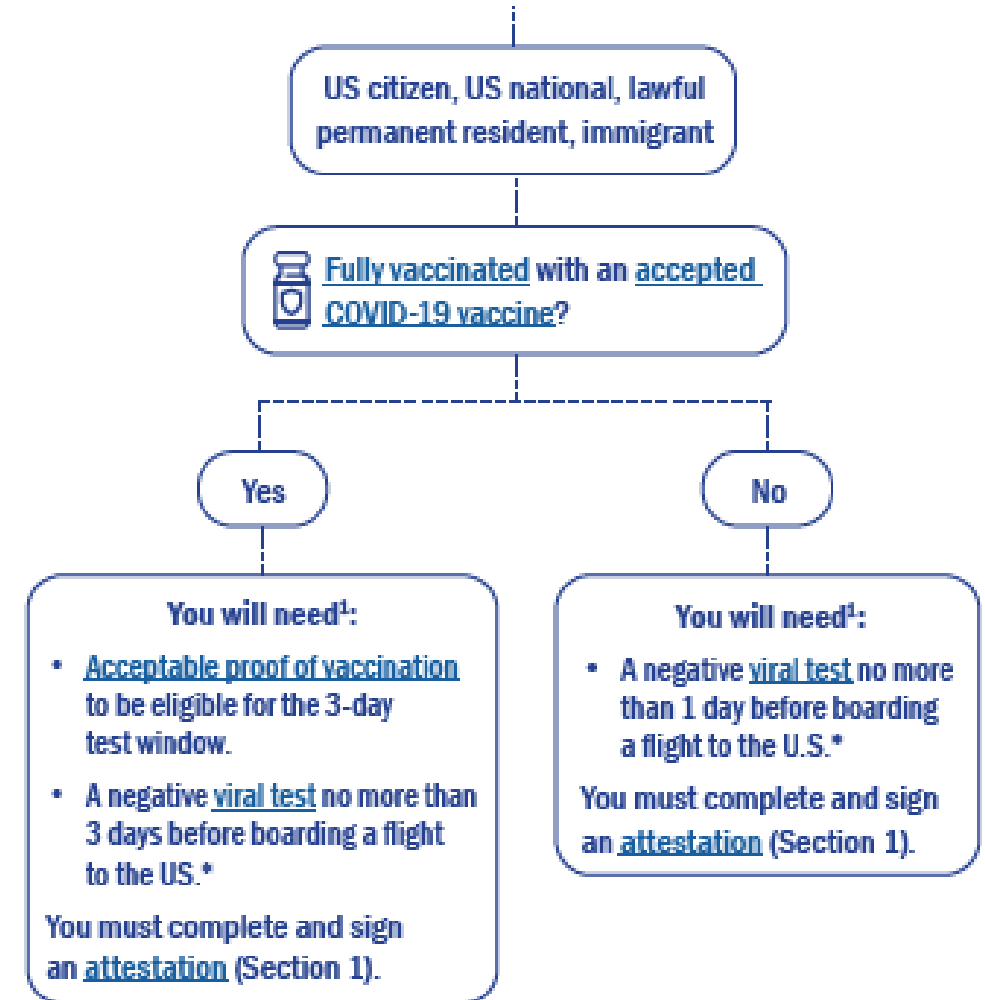https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#pregnancy-data

7

Updated travel requirements for international travelers

No major changes for domestic travel:
- Masks <u>required</u>
- Delay travel until fully vaccinated
- Do not travel if you have been exposed to COVID-19, you are sick, or if you test positive for COVID-19
- If you are not fully vaccinated and must travel, get tested both before and after your trip

New requirements for international travelers arriving to the United States by air (11/8/2021):
- Proof of vaccination required for non-US citizens (with some exception criteria)

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/international-travel/index.html

US citizen, US national, lawful permanent resident, immigrant

[Fully vaccinated](#) with an [accepted](#) [COVID-19 vaccine](#)?

Yes

You will need[1]:
- [Acceptable proof of vaccination](#) to be eligible for the 3-day test window.
- A negative [viral test](#) no more than 3 days before boarding a flight to the US.*

You must complete and sign an [attestation](#) (Section 1).

No

You will need[1]:
- A negative [viral test](#) no more than 1 day before boarding a flight to the U.S.*

You must complete and sign an [attestation](#) (Section 1).

CDC holiday guidance

Safer ways to celebrate holidays

- Get yourself and other eligible people around you vaccinated
- Wear a mask indoors in public settings with substantial to high transmission, even if you are vaccinated
- Avoid crowded, poorly ventilated spaces
    - Outdoors is safer than indoors
- If you are sick or have symptoms, don't host or attend a gathering
- Get tested if you have symptoms of COVID-19 or had close contact with someone who has COVID-19
- Use precautions when traveling
- If you are gathering with a group of people from multiple households, consider additional precautions (e.g., avoiding crowded indoor spaces before travel, taking a test) in advance of gathering to further reduce risk.

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/holidays/celebrations.html

FDA updates test policies to help to ensure accuracy and reliability of tests and increase access to at-home tests (11/15/2021)

- Withdrew a policy not to enforce review requirements for laboratory developed tests. This action will help ensure that COVID-19 tests are accurate and reliable.
- FDA will focus on emergency use authorization (EUA) requests for the following types of tests:
  - At-home and point-of-care diagnostic tests
  - Lab-based diagnostic tests that expand testing capacity or accessibility (such as through pooling of specimens, testing specimens collected at home and shipped to the lab, screening asymptomatic individuals, or detecting multiple different respiratory viruses at once)
  - Antibody tests that can quantify antibodies or neutralizing antibodies
- Issued an umbrella EUA for serial testing with certain laboratory molecular diagnostic tests. These tests will be able to be used for testing at regular intervals as part of serial testing programs, such as those established at places like schools, workplaces or community groups.

https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/coronavirus-covid-19-update-fda-updates-test-policies-help-ensure-accuracy-and-reliability-tests-and

Surgeon General's Community Toolkit for Health Misinformation

- 22-page toolkit with tips, activities, checklists, infographics, and more: https://www.hhs.gov/surgeongeneral/reports-and-publications/health-misinformation/index.html#community-toolkit
- Intended for:
  - Health care professionals and administrators
  - Teachers, school administrators, and librarians
  - Faith leaders
  - Trusted community members

A Community Toolkit for Addressing Health Misinformation

Information that is false, inaccurate, or misleading according to the best available evidence at the time

Office of the U.S. Surgeon General   2021

Surgeon General's Community Toolkit for Health Misinformation

1 **What is health misinformation?**

It is information that is false, inaccurate, or misleading according to the best available evidence at the time.

2 **Why are we all susceptible to being influenced by misinformation and why is it so tempting to share it?**

We like to feel that we have new information that others don't know.

We may be seeking explanations or wanting to share information that helps us make sense of events.

We want to protect the people we care about.

We want to feel connected to others.

3 **What are some tips for talking with your family, friends and community about misinformation?**

Listen

Empathize

Point to Credible Sources

Don't Publicly Shame

Use Inclusive Language

Surgeon General's Community Toolkit for Health Misinformation

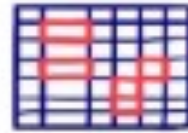## 4 What are some common types of health misinformation?

Memes that were created as a joke, but people started re-sharing thinking it was true.

Websites that look professional but the stories are all false or misleading.

Quotations where the beginning or end have been deleted to change the meaning.

Cherry-picked statistics. Without all the data, people haven't provided all the context.

Misleading graphs or diagrams that look official but don't tell the whole story.

Old images that recirculate as if they are actually very recent.

Videos that have been edited to change the meaning.

Surgeon General's Community Toolkit for Health Misinformation

Use this checklist every time you come across health-related content you are not sure about.

Health Misinformation Checklist

Information that is false, inaccurate, or misleading according to the best available evidence at the time

- ☑ Did you check with the CDC or local public health department to see whether there is any information about the claim being made?

- ☑ Did you ask a credible health care professional such as your doctor or nurse if they have any additional information?

- ☑ Did you type the claim into a search engine to see if it has been verified by a credible source?

- ☑ Did you look at the "About Us" page on the website to see if you can trust the source?
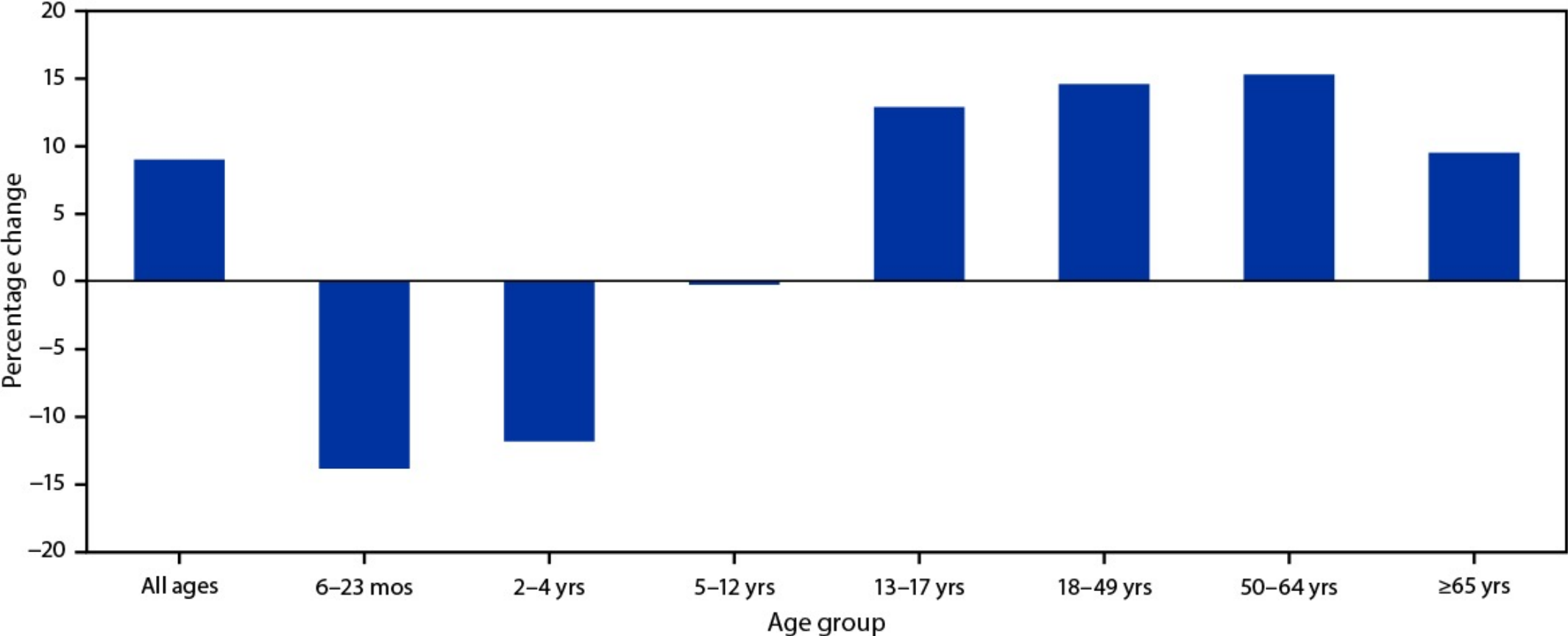
- ☑ If you're not sure, don't share!

MMWR: Influenza Vaccinations During the COVID-19 Pandemic — 11 U.S. Jurisdictions, September–December 2020

- Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommends routine annual influenza vaccination for the 2021–22 influenza season for all persons aged ≥6 months who have no contraindications
- To assess the potential impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on influenza vaccination coverage, administration of influenza vaccine during September–December 2020 was compared with the corresponding periods in 2018 and 2019
- Data were from 11 U.S. jurisdictions with high-performing immunization information systems
  - Idaho, Iowa, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, New York City, North Dakota, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wisconsin

https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/70/wr/mm7045a3.htm

MMWR: Influenza Vaccinations During the COVID-19 Pandemic — 11 U.S. Jurisdictions, September–December 2020

Percentage change in influenza vaccine doses during 2020 compared with 2018 and 2019

MMWR: Influenza Vaccinations During the COVID-19 Pandemic — 11 U.S. Jurisdictions, September–December 2020

- During September–December 2020, overall influenza vaccine administration was 9.0% higher than the average during September–December in 2018 and 2019
- However, influenza administration declined among children aged 6–23 months (13.9%) and 2–4 years (11.9%)
- Strategic efforts are necessary to ensure high influenza vaccination coverage among all age groups, especially children aged 6 months–4 years, who are not yet eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccine
- Influenza vaccination could help reduce the spread of influenza and reduce the potential burden that influenza cases could place on health care systems already overburdened by COVID-19.

References

Updates

- https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#datatracker-home (CDC COVID Data Tracker)
- https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view (CDC Community Transmission data)
- https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#demographicsovertime (CDC COVID-19 demographic trends)
- https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#pregnancy-data (CDC pregnancy data)
- https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html (CDC Travel guidance)
- https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/holidays/celebrations.html (CDC holiday guidance)
- https://www.hhs.gov/surgeongeneral/reports-and-publications/health-misinformation/index.html#community-toolkit (Surgeon General's health misinformation toolkit

MMWR

- Roman PC, Kirtland K, Zell ER, et al. Influenza Vaccinations During the COVID-19 Pandemic — 11 U.S. Jurisdictions, September–December 2020. MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep 2021;70:1575–1578. DOI: http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm7045a3