

The State of Our Children: Kids and COVID-19

December 14, 2020



Increasing COVID-19 cases, tremendous pressures on the healthcare infrastructure, new State restrictions, continued economic worries and arrival of the first COVID-19 vaccine—**this is the state of our children for the week of December 14, 2020.**

Current Issues Facing Our Children: Vaccines and Kids

Karen Dahl, MD - Vice President, Quality, Patient Safety and Medical Affairs

There is much discussion—and hopefulness—surrounding a number of COVID-19 vaccines working their way through the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) approval process. At this point, however, there is little data available on the impact of the vaccines on kids, their efficacy and their ultimate use in younger populations.

All of the leading vaccine manufacturers either have already enrolled or are planning to enroll children down to 12 years of age in the coming months, so we will surely know more in the days ahead. As children are usually mildly affected by COVID-19, the risk-benefit ratio of the vaccine will need to be carefully weighed as data accumulates.

As we speak with our patients, families, community members and others, it is important that we convey our confidence in the safety, efficacy, clinical testing and trial protocol as they will all be looking to us to communicate the importance and confidence in this essential tool to get our country back on the road to recovery.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) are both trusted organizations for additional information, toolkits for talking with families and more.

What Questions Are We Hearing Most About The Vaccine From Our Patients And Families?

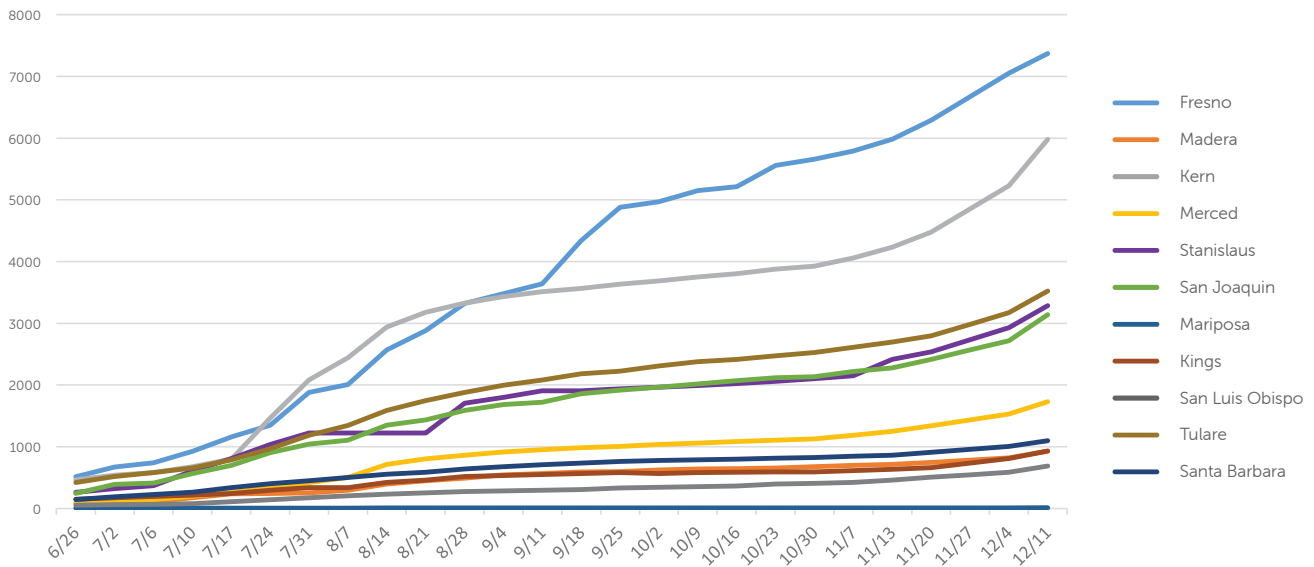
M. Nael Mhaisen, MD - Medical Director of Infectious Disease and Infection Prevention & Control

Below are some quick answers to the questions we are hearing most frequently from our patients, families, colleagues and the community:

- **Can you get COVID-19 from the vaccine?**
No, because there is no "live" virus in the vaccine.
- **If I have the vaccine, will I test positive for COVID-19 in the future?**
No, the vaccine will not cause a false positive test result.
- **This vaccine uses messenger RNA (mRNA) to create our body's ability to fight this virus. Will this mRNA vaccine alter my DNA?**
No, it does not affect or interact with our DNA in any way.
mRNA never enters the nucleus of the cell, which is where our DNA is located.
- **Are mRNA vaccines new?**
They are new but not unknown as they have been studied previously for the flu, the Zika virus and cytomegalovirus (CMV).
- **Should I still get the vaccine if I have previously gotten sick with COVID-19?**
Yes. It is unconfirmed as to whether having COVID-19 will make you immune to getting it again.
The risk of re-infection remains.
- **Can I stop wearing a mask after I get the vaccine?**
No. It will take time to build our individual immunity as well as a broader "herd" immunity.
We will still need to be diligent in preventing the transmission of COVID-19.
- **How long does immunity last after receiving the vaccine?**
That is unknown at this point.

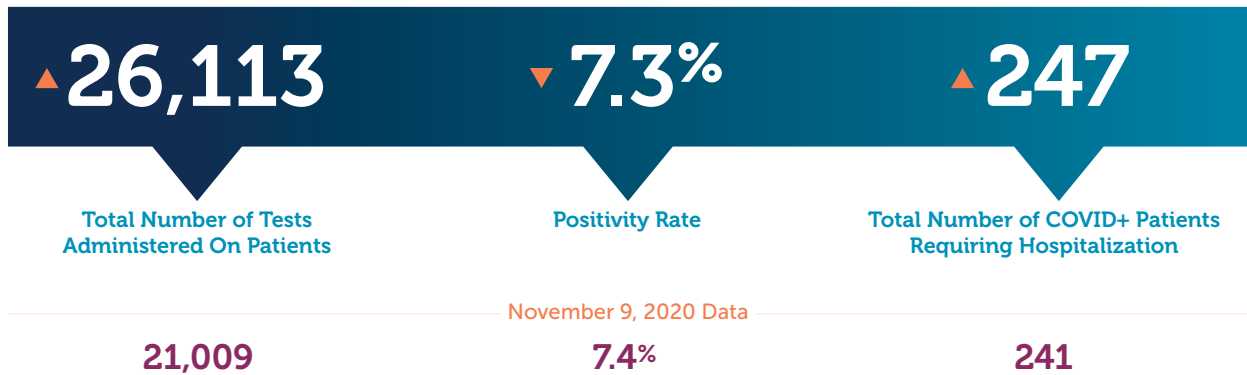
COVID-19 Cases for Children by County (for the week ending December 11, 2020)*

* Children ages 0 – 17 (Stanislaus County data includes children ages 0-20)



Current Data and Trends

Across Valley Children’s Healthcare Network (as of December 13, 2020)



Everyone Can Do Their Part

SLOW THE SPREAD WEAR A MASK



For More Information visit valleychildrens.org/covid19 or email contactus@valleychildrens.org