

# The State of Our Children: Kids and COVID-19

October 5, 2020



A few counties in the San Joaquin Valley and Central Coast areas are making progress in decreasing transmission rates of COVID-19, moving from the State's "purple" to "red" category. Wildfires continue to displace families and to affect our air quality. We are grateful for the tireless work of firefighters, State and Federal forest service staff, the National Guard, healthcare providers and County agencies who mobilized to respond. This is the state of our children for the week of October 5, 2020.

## Current Issues Facing our Children: Co-infection of COVID-19 and Influenza

**Dr. David Christensen** - SVP, Medical Affairs & Chief Physician Executive

As we previously shared, a July 2020 study reported in *Pediatrics* reported that "[children] with COVID-19 presented with distinct epidemiological, clinical, and radiologic characteristics from adult patients. Nearly one-half of the infected children had co-infection with other common respiratory pathogens."<sup>1</sup>

In the face of the upcoming flu season, there is concern over the traditional influenza virus's impact on children and adults alike, given possible co-infection rates.

In a recent publication from the American Medical Association, "both [the COVID-19] and influenza viruses have demonstrated their ease of person-to-person transmission through the respiratory droplet route. The diseases caused by these viruses also share similar clinical presentations, including fever and respiratory symptoms that range from mild forms, such as cough, to severe lung infection. However, coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) has also demonstrated distinct clinical characteristics. Although the search for a vaccine and treatment continues for COVID-19, **influenza has become detectable, vaccine-preventable, and treatable.**"<sup>2</sup>

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) "recommends everyone 6 months and older get an annual flu vaccine, especially children who are younger than 5 years of age or children of any age who have a high-risk medical condition because they are more likely to develop serious flu complications that can lead to hospitalization and death. Getting vaccinated has been shown to reduce flu illnesses, doctor's visits, missed school days, and reduce the risk of flu-related hospitalization and death in children."<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Qin Wu, Yuhan Xing, Lei Shi, Wenjie Li, Yang Gao, Silin Pan, Ying Wang, Wendi Wang and Quansheng Xing. *Pediatrics* July 2020, 146 (1) e20200961; DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1542/peds.2020-0961>

<sup>2</sup> JAMA Netw Open. 2020;3(9):e2020495. doi:10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2020.20495

<sup>3</sup> [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)

## Key Findings: CMS Issues Urgent Call to Action Following Drastic Decline in Care for Children in Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program Due to COVID-19

**Carmela Sosa, MD** - Medical Director, Primary Care and Guilds Center for Community Health

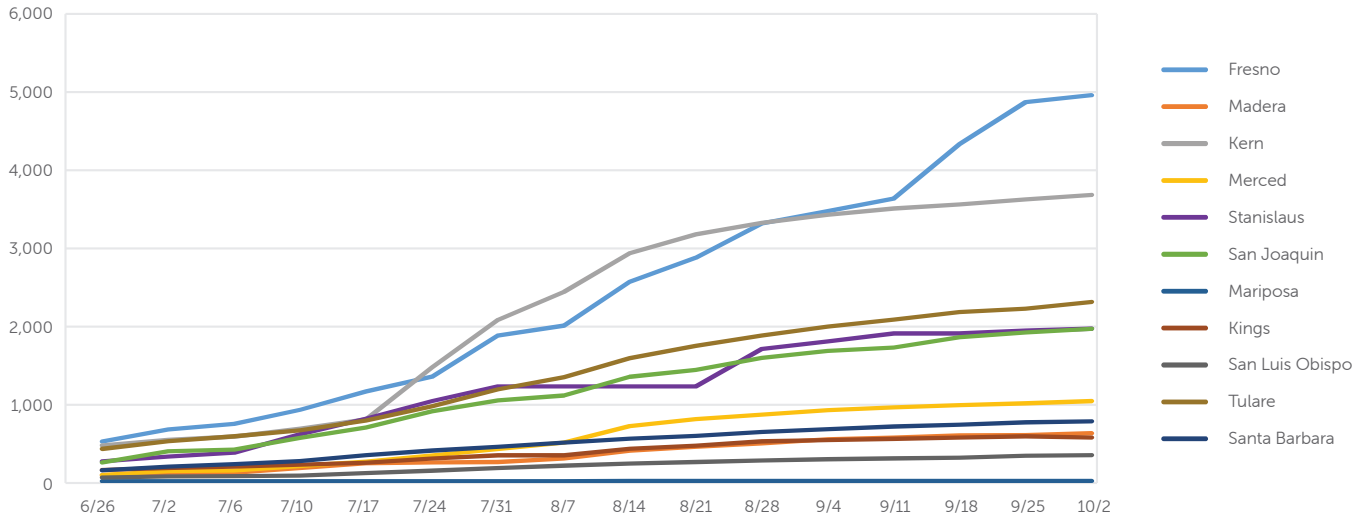
On September 23, 2020, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released preliminary Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) data revealing that during the COVID-19 public health emergency (PHE), vaccination rates, primary and preventive services among children in Medicaid and CHIP have steeply declined.

Although the start of the school season has been different for children as many began their education virtually, the critical need for children to receive preventative and routine healthcare persists. **It is important for families to catch up on well-child visits and for schools to ensure that children are up to date on their immunizations.**

Families are encouraged to contact their primary care provider if they are not up to date on their regularly scheduled visits and immunizations to protect children from vaccine-preventable diseases.

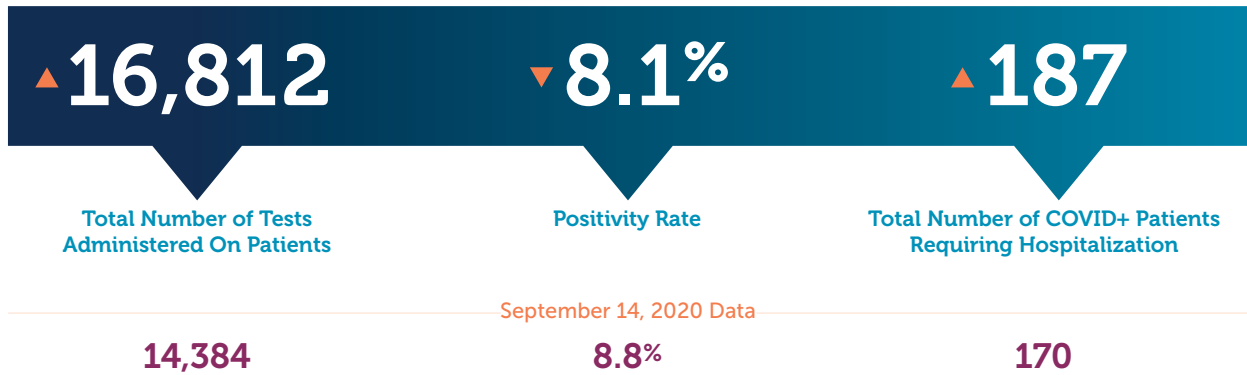
# COVID-19 Cases for Children by County (for the week ending October 2, 2020)\*

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



## Current Data and Trends

Across Valley Children’s Healthcare Network (as of October 5, 2020)



Everyone Can Do Their Part

# SLOW THE SPREAD WEAR A MASK



For More Information visit [valleychildrens.org/covid19](http://valleychildrens.org/covid19) or email [contactus@valleychildrens.org](mailto:contactus@valleychildrens.org)