

The State of Our Children: Kids and COVID-19

February 1, 2021



The year has begun with COVID-19 cases surging, hospitals across the state under tremendous pressure, changing State guidelines, continued economic worries – and hopeful signs as vaccines find their way into our communities.

This is the state of our children for the week of February 1, 2021.

Valley Children's Accepts Adult Patients

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

Given the current widespread transmission of COVID-19 and the stress on adult hospital facilities throughout our region, Valley Children's is accepting patients up to the age of 27, following State guidelines for transferring adult patients to pediatric facilities.

Valley Children's has been prepared to care for adult patients since the onset of this pandemic, and we are working closely to support our adult hospital partners across the Valley and State as they manage the tremendous increase in COVID-19 patients.

What We Are Seeing at Valley Children's Hospital: An Increase in MIS-C Cases

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

Multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children (MIS-C) is a condition where different body parts can become inflamed, including the heart, lungs, kidneys, brain, skin, eyes or gastrointestinal organs. Children with MIS-C may have a fever and various symptoms, including abdominal pain, vomiting, diarrhea, neck pain, rash, bloodshot eyes or feeling extra tired. It is still unclear what exactly causes MIS-C; however, many children with this condition had the virus that causes COVID-19, or had been around someone with COVID-19.

We continue to see a steady increase in the number of MIS-C cases at Valley Children's. More than 60 cases have been identified since the beginning of the pandemic, many of which required ICU admission. Early diagnosis and treatment of patients with MIS-C is critical to preventing long-term complications. Our infectious disease and rheumatology specialists are available to consult with healthcare providers with management of such cases. If a child has signs of MIS-C, it is recommended that they contact their pediatrician.

Vaccines and Kids

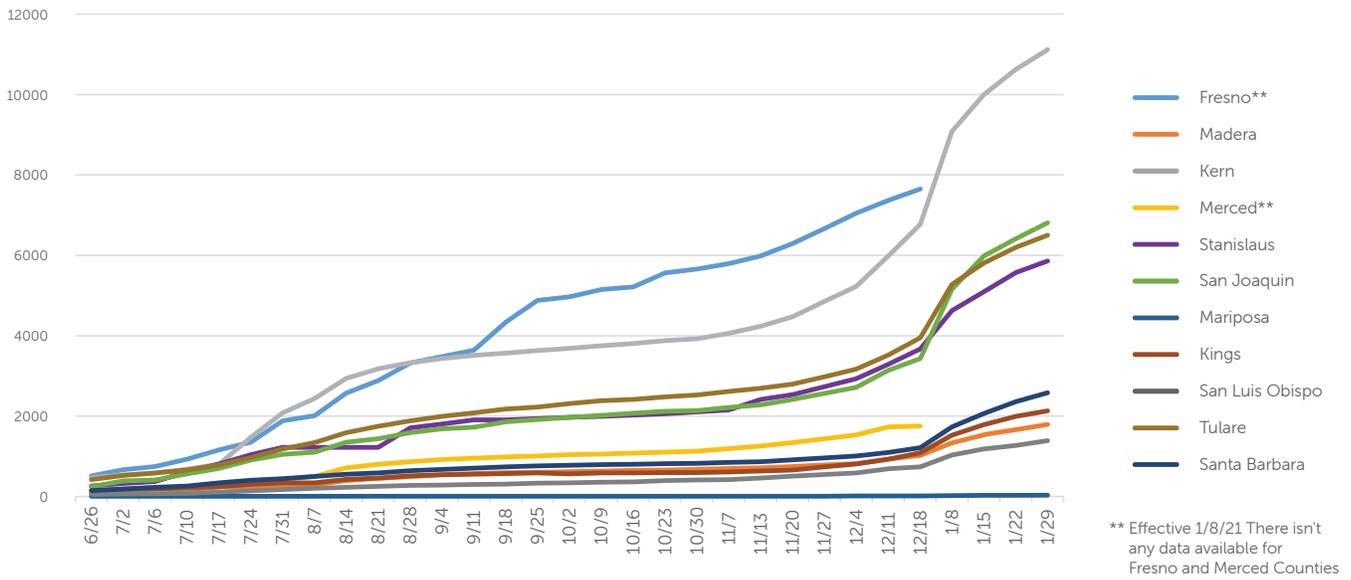
David Christensen, MD - Chief Physician Executive and Senior Vice President of Medical Affairs

This month, FDA Commissioner Dr. Stephen Hahn and FDA Director for Biologics, Evaluation and Research Dr. Peter Marks provided an update on the progress of COVID-19 vaccines for children. Key points from their remarks include:

- **Based on current data, COVID-19 vaccine efficacy appears to be essentially the same across all age groups, providing an optimistic outlook for pediatric efficacy.**
- **The Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) for the adolescent age range (12-15) is anticipated in the next 2-3 months.**
- **The EUA for ages 6-12 is expected to be "several months away," but studies will be initiated while the EUA process is being completed for the adolescent population.**
- **The FDA is well aware that there is a strong desire for a pediatric vaccination to accelerate students returning to school as safely as possible.**
- **Moderna is on the cusp of their pediatric trial; Janssen and Pfizer are close behind.**

COVID-19 Cases for Children by County (for the week ending January 29, 2021)*

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



Current Data and Trends

Across Valley Children's Healthcare Network (as of January 25, 2021)



Everyone Can Do Their Part

SLOW THE SPREAD WEAR A MASK



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

