

**A RESOURCE FOR IMPROVING MEASURABLE IMPACT**

**Protecting our Children from COVID-19: How Texans can help**



**On June 18, 2022, the CDC recommended that children aged 6 months and older get the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine. (1)**

As of August 18, 2022, more than 14 million child COVID-19 cases have been reported, representing 18% of all cases in the U.S. (2)

Following the winter surge of the Omicron variant, **reported cases** of COVID-19 have drastically decreased among children and adolescents. (2)

**Proper reporting is essential for staying up to date on transmission rates. You can check your county transmission rate here: [www.sph.uth.edu/dept/bads/covid19-dashboard](http://www.sph.uth.edu/dept/bads/covid19-dashboard).**

**Children can still experience severe outcomes from COVID-19.**

Nationwide, as of August 2022, among children and adolescents ages 0-17 years:\*

<p><b>More than 500,000</b> have been hospitalized with COVID-19</p>	<p><b>Approximately 20,000</b> have suffered from long-COVID</p>	<p><b>Nearly 2,000</b> have died from COVID-19</p>
--	--	--

\*References 3-5

**Child hospitalizations due to COVID-19 were at an all-time high in January 2022.** (3,6) Among adolescents aged 12-17 who were hospitalized with COVID-19, **nearly 1/3** required intensive care unit (ICU) admission. (7)



- Children with underlying health conditions such as asthma, diabetes, or obesity and babies under 1 year old are at increased risk of severe illness from COVID-19 compared to children without underlying conditions or older than 1 year old. (8-9)
- Children of color are disproportionately impacted by severe outcomes from COVID-19. (5,10)
- A child is more likely to experience serious symptoms from COVID-19 infection than from the vaccine. (5)
- In some areas of high and increasing cases, children’s hospitals have been over capacity because of lack of beds and staff shortages. (11)
- Multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children (MIS-C) is a rare but serious disease associated with COVID-19. (12) As of August 1, 2022, there were 8,798 cases of MIS-C and 71 deaths in the U.S. (13)

**The vaccine is safe - please protect yourself, your families, and your neighbors.**

## Children have a right to be safe.

There are approximately 7 million children under the age of 18 in Texas. (14,15) During the 2021-2022 academic school year, 5.4 million children under the age of 18 attended public school (K-12th grade). (16)



Children attending public school in the 2022-2023 school year will likely be exposed to COVID-19 in school settings. This may be exacerbated by new and highly contagious variants. (3)



Because children do not have the autonomy to obtain the COVID-19 vaccine, it is up to the public to protect them - by getting vaccinated, wearing masks, and social distancing to reduce transmission in the community.



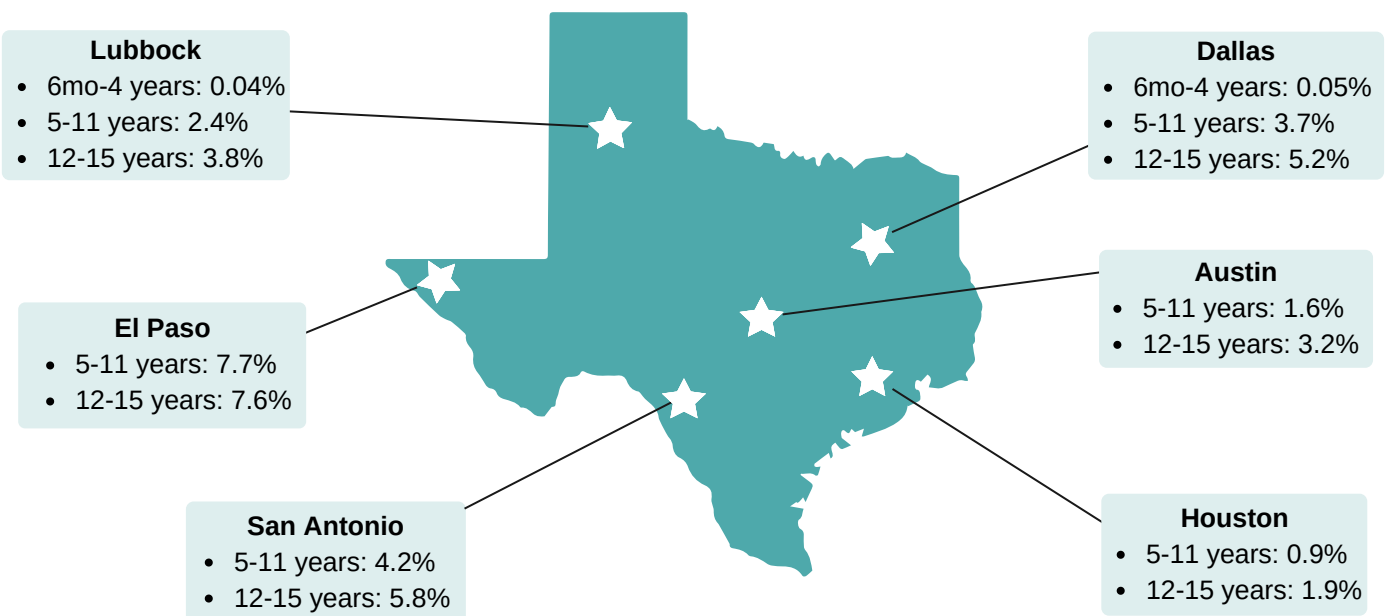
The COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective, and have been developed and used under the most intensive safety monitoring in U.S. history, including studies in children. (17)



Data suggests vaccine immunity is substantially stronger than natural infection (18,19)

**As of August 31, 2022, only 71.7% of people aged 5 years or older in the United States have been full vaccinated for COVID-19. (20)**

**In Texas, only 4.6% of children aged 5-11 years, and 5.6% of children aged 12-15 years are fully vaccinated for COVID-19. (21)**



## Protect our children.

Children belong back in school, among their peers and with their teachers. Take preventive actions.

- **Get vaccinated.** For yourself, for your family, for those around you, for those who cannot get vaccinated.
- **Get the booster shot.** Booster shots are recommended for those 5 years and older who are fully vaccinated (3).
- **Stay up-to-date on your vaccine.** By completing the primary series and all boosters recommended for your age.
- Report a positive at-home test to your healthcare provider.
- Protect young children by wearing a mask, social distancing, and washing your hands regularly when symptomatic -even if you are vaccinated (22-24).
- Vaccinate your children if they are age 6-months or older.(3)
- Ask those who care for or teach your children to get vaccinated.
- Monitor the projected risk at your child's school here: (25) [www.covid-19.tacc.utexas.edu/dashboards/school-risk/](http://www.covid-19.tacc.utexas.edu/dashboards/school-risk/)
- Check your antibody status by participating in Texas CARES: (19) [www.sph.uth.edu/projects/texascares](http://www.sph.uth.edu/projects/texascares)

**MAY 10, 2021**

All Texans aged 12 and older eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine. (27)

**OCTOBER 29, 2021**

FDA approves COVID-19 Pfizer booster shot for children 12 years and older in the U.S. (29)

**JANUARY 20, 2022**

U.S. cases decline to 31,991 new reported child cases of COVID-19. (2)

**MARCH 30, 2022**

CDC extends booster recommendations to include children at least five years old. (31)

**JUNE 18, 2022**

FDA approves COVID-19 Pfizer vaccine for children ages 12 and older. (26)

**MAY 12, 2021**

FDA approves COVID-19 Pfizer vaccine for children ages 5-11 years in the U.S. (28)

**JANUARY 3, 2022**

U.S. reaches 10,603,034 total reported child cases of COVID-19. (2)

**MARCH 17, 2022**

CDC recommends a second booster shot for immunocompromised and older adults. (30)

**MAY 19, 2022**

FDA approves COVID vaccine for children as young as 6-months. (32)

For resources on where to get a COVID-19 vaccine, see below: (33,34)

- **COVID-19 Vaccine Finder**  
[www.vaccines.gov](http://www.vaccines.gov)
- **CDC's Federal Retail Pharmacy Program**  
[www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/retail-pharmacy-program/participating-pharmacies.html](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/retail-pharmacy-program/participating-pharmacies.html)

## TX RPC Network Member Content Experts

**Joseph B. McCormick, MD**

UTHealth School of Public Health Brownsville Campus

**Susan Fisher-Hoch, MD**

UTHealth School of Public Health Brownsville Campus

**Harold W. (Bill) Kohl, III, PhD**

UTHealth School of Public Health Austin Campus

**Sarah Messiah, PhD, MPH**

UTHealth School of Public Health Dallas Campus

**Deanna Hoelscher, PhD, RDN, LD, CNS, FISBNPA**

UTHealth School of Public Health Austin Campus

**Alexandra (Sandra) van den Berg, PhD, MPH**

UTHealth School of Public Health Austin Campus

Content development and research for this report was led by Dell Health Scholars, Amelia Roebuck, Marnie Moore, Brittany Buchanan, Shelby Flores-Thorpe and TX RPC Project Staff. For further information, please contact [TXRPCNetwork@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:TXRPCNetwork@uth.tmc.edu).

## REFERENCES

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. CDC recommends COVID-19 vaccines for young children. <https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2022/s0618-children-vaccine.html>. Published June 18, 2022. Accessed September 8, 2022.
2. American Academy of Pediatrics. American Academy of Pediatrics Children and COVID-19: State-Level Data Report. <https://services.aap.org/en/pages/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-infections/children-and-covid-19-state-level-data-report/>. Updated August 11, 2022. Accessed August 18, 2022.
3. Klein NP, Stockwell MS, Demarco M, et al. Effectiveness of COVID-19 Pfizer-BioNTech BNT162b2 mRNA vaccination in preventing COVID-19 associated emergency department and urgent care encounters and hospitalizations among nonimmunocompromised children and adolescents aged 5-17 years -VISION Network, 10 states, April 2021-January 2022. *MMWR. Morbidity and mortality weekly report.* 2022;71(90): 352-358. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm7109e3>
4. Your Local Epidemiologist. Advocating for kids: Resources that can help. [https://yourlocalepidemiologist.substack.com/p/advocating-for-kids-resources-that?fbclid=IwAR3AU6ujZg6rDatJAAcaFmvV8ojgiN3A2nStNGc15kOAdrwyJ3VDsIs\\_POK](https://yourlocalepidemiologist.substack.com/p/advocating-for-kids-resources-that?fbclid=IwAR3AU6ujZg6rDatJAAcaFmvV8ojgiN3A2nStNGc15kOAdrwyJ3VDsIs_POK). Published August 1, 2021. Accessed August 4, 2021.
5. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Estimated COVID-19 Burden. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cases-updates/burden.html>. Updated November 16, 2021. Accessed January 24, 2022.
6. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. COVID Data Tracker. <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#new-hospital-admissions>. Accessed November 2, 2021.
7. Havers FP, Whitaker M, Self JL, Chai SJ, Kirley PD, Alden NB, Kawasaki B, Meek J, Yousey-Hindes K, Anderson EJ, Openo KP, Weigel A, Teno K, Monroe ML, Ryan PA, Reeg L, Kohrman A, Lynfield R, Como-Sabetti K, Poblete M, McMullen C, Muse A, Spina N, Bennett NM, Gaitan M, Billing LM, Schiltz J, Sutton M, Abdullah N, Schaffner W, Talbot HK, Crossland M, George A, Patel K, Pham H, Milucky J, Anglin O, Ujamaa D, Hall AJ, Garg S, & Taylor CA.. Hospitalization of Adolescents Aged 12–17 Years with Laboratory-Confirmed COVID-19 — COVID-NET, 14 States, March 1, 2020–April 24, 2021. *MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep* 2021;70:851–857. <http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm7023e1>
8. Texas Research-to-Policy Collaboration Project. COVID-19: Impact of Childhood Obesity on Health Outcomes. <https://sph.uth.edu/research/centers/dell/legislative-initiatives/COVID-19%20Child%20Obesity.pdf>. Published January 20, 2021. Updated. February 2, 2022.

## REFERENCES

9. Payne, AB, Gilani Z, Godfred-Cato S, Belay ED, Feldstein LR, Patel MM, Randolph AG, Newhams M, Thomas D, Magleby R, Hsu K, Burns M, Dufort E, Maxted A, Pietrowski M, Longenberger A, Bidol S, Henderson J, Sosa L, Edmundson A, Tobin-D'Angelo M, Edison L, Hiedemann S, Singh AR, Giuliano Jr JS, Kleinman LC, Tarquinio KM, Walsh RF, Fitzgerald JC, Clouser KN, Gertz SJ, Carroll RW, Carroll CL, Hoots BE, Reed C, Dahlgren FS, Oster ME, Pierce TJ, Curns AT, Langley GE, Campbell AP, MIS-C Incidence Authorship Group, Balachandran N, Murray TS, Burkholder C, Brancard T, Lifshitz J, Leach D, Charpie I, Tice C, Coffin SE, Perella D, Jones K, Marohn KL, Yager PH, Ferandes ND, Flori HR, Koncicki ML, Walker KS, di Pentima MC, Li S, Howitz SM, Gaur S, Coffey DC, Harwayne-Gidansky I, Hymes SR, Thomas NJ, Ackerman KG, & Cholette JM. Incidence of Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children Among US Persons Infected With SARS-CoV-2. *JAMA Netw Open*. 2021;4(6) <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamanetworkopen/fullarticle/2780861>
10. United States Census Bureau. US Census Bureau - Quick Facts - Texas. <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/TX>. Accessed November 2, 2021.
11. NBC News. Kids sick with Covid are filling up children's hospitals in areas seeing spikes. <https://nbcnews.com/news/us-news/kids-sick-are-filling-children-s-hospitals-areas-seeing-n1276238>. Accessed August 12, 2021.
12. Office for National Statistics. Prevalence of ongoing symptoms following coronavirus (COVID-19) infection in the UK. <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/conditionsanddiseases/datasets/alldatarelatingtoprevalenceofongoingsymptomsfollowingcoronaviruscovid19infectionintheuk>. Published July 1, 2021.
13. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children (MIS-C) associated with COVID-19. <https://www.cdc.gov/mis/mis-c.html>. Updated November 2, 2021.
14. Public Health Communications Collaborative. Updated toolkit: children and COVID-19 vaccination. <https://publichealthcollaborative.org/resources/graphics-children-and-covid-19-vaccination/>. Updated June 20, 2022. Accessed June 27, 2022.
15. Texas Education Agency. Enrollment in Texas Public Schools 2020-21. Document No. GE21 601 08. <https://tea.texas.gov/sites/default/files/enroll-2020-21.pdf>. Published June 2021.
16. Food and Drug Administration. Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update: FDA Authorizes Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine for Emergency Use in Adolescents in Another Important Action in Fight Against Pandemic. <https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/coronavirus-covid-19-update-fda-authorizes-pfizer-biontech-covid-19-vaccine-emergency-use>. Published May 10, 2021. Accessed August 4, 2021.
17. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. COVID-19 Vaccines for Children and Teens. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/recommendations/adolescents.html>. Updated March 22, 2022. Accessed March 24, 2022.
18. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. New CDC Study: Vaccination offers higher protection than previous COVID-19 infection. <https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2021/s0806-vaccination-protection.html>. Published August 6, 2021.
19. Texas Cares. Key Findings as of October 3, 2021. <https://sph.uth.edu/projects/texascares/>. Updated October 2, 2021. Accessed June 27, 2022.
20. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. COVID Data Tracker. [https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#vaccinations\\_vacc-people-fully-percent-total](https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#vaccinations_vacc-people-fully-percent-total). Updated August 31, 2022. Accessed September 8, 2022.
21. Texas Health and Human Services. COVID-19 Vaccination in Texas. [https://tabexternal.dshs.texas.gov/t/THD/views/COVID-19VaccineinTexasDashboard/PeopleVaccinated?%3Aorigin=card\\_share\\_link&%3Aembed=y&%3AisGuestRedirectFromVizportal=y](https://tabexternal.dshs.texas.gov/t/THD/views/COVID-19VaccineinTexasDashboard/PeopleVaccinated?%3Aorigin=card_share_link&%3Aembed=y&%3AisGuestRedirectFromVizportal=y). Updated July 29, 2022. Accessed September 8, 2022.
22. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Use and Care of Masks. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/about-face-coverings.html>. Updated February 25, 2022. Accessed June 21, 2022.
23. Center for Disease Control and Prevention. COVID-19 by County. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/covid-by-county.html>. Updated March 17, 2022. Accessed March 21, 2022.
24. American Academy of Pediatrics Updates Recommendations for Opening Schools in Fall 2021. <https://services.aap.org/en/news-room/news-releases/aap/2021/american-academy-of-pediatrics-updates-recommendations-for-opening-schools-in-fall-2021/>. Published July 19, 2021. Accessed July 19, 2021.
25. The University of Texas COVID-19 Modeling Consortium. Expected number of COVID-19 cases arriving at school. <https://covid-19.tacc.utexas.edu/dashboards/school-risk/>. Accessed August 4, 2021.
26. Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update: FDA Authorizes Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine for Emergency Use in Adolescents in Another Important Action in Fight Against Pandemic. <https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/coronavirus-covid-19-update-fda-authorizes-pfizer-biontech-covid-19-vaccine-emergency-use>. Published May 10, 2021. Accessed August 4, 2021.
27. Texas Department of State Health Services. Adolescents Ages 12 to 15 Years Now Eligible To Be Vaccinated Against COVID-19. <https://dshs.texas.gov/news/releases/2021/20210512.aspx>. Published May 12, 2021. Accessed August 4, 2021.

## REFERENCES

28. Food and Drug Administration. FDA Authorizes Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine for Emergency Use in Children 5 through 11 Years of Age. <https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/fda-authorizes-pfizer-biontech-covid-19-vaccine-emergency-use-children-5-through-11-years-age>. Accessed November 2, 2021.
29. Food and Drug Administration. Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update: FDA Takes Multiple Actions to Expand Use of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine. <https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/coronavirus-covid-19-update-fda-takes-multiple-actions-expand-use-pfizer-biontech-covid-19-vaccine>. Accessed January 24, 2022.
30. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. CDC Recommends Additional Boosters for Certain Individuals. <https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2022/s0328-covid-19-boosters.html>. Published March 29, 2022. Accessed September 8, 2022.
31. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. CDC Strengthens Recommendations and Expands Eligibility for COVID-19 Booster Shots. <https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2022/s0519-covid-boosters.html#:~:text=CDC%20Strengthens%20Recommendations%20and%20Expands%20Eligibility%20for%20COVID%2D19%20Booster%20Shots,-Media%20Statement&text=Following%20today's%20meeting%20of%20the,years%20of%20age%20and%20older>. Published May 19, 2022. Accessed September 8, 2022.
32. Food and Drug Administration. Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update: FDA Authorizes Moderna and Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccines for Children Down to 6 Months of Age. <https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/coronavirus-covid-19-update-fda-authorizes-moderna-and-pfizer-biontech-covid-19-vaccines-children>. Published June 17, 2022. Accessed September 8, 2022.
33. COVID-19 Vaccine Information. <https://www.dshs.texas.gov/covidvaccine/>. Updated July 28, 2021. Accessed November 2, 2021.
34. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Vaccines & Immunizations: Participating Pharmacies. <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/retail-pharmacy-program/participating-pharmacies.html>. Accessed September 8, 2022.