THE PANDEMIC IMPACT
on Wellness Visits and Vaccinations for Children and Adolescents

Provided as an educational resource by Merck.
THE TIME TO ACT IS NOW: Numerous reports have documented a marked drop in vaccination and prevention services during the pandemic.¹

2020-2021 US national wellness visits cumulative change vs 2017-2019 three year average, for the same time period²

All age cohorts have seen a decrease in wellness visits during the COVID-19 pandemic, with adolescent age cohorts most impacted.²

WELLNESS VISITS ARE ESSENTIAL for many reasons, including getting recommended routine vaccinations for children and adolescents.³,⁴

Data Sources: HealthVerity COVID-19 Surveillance and Utilization Syndicated Weekly Offering, 2020-2021; Optum’s Insight Clininformatics Data Mart, 2017-2019.²

COMMUNITY MITIGATION MEASURES such as shelter-in-place orders resulted in declines in outpatient pediatric visits and fewer vaccine doses administered during the COVID-19 pandemic, leaving children and adolescents at risk for vaccine-preventable diseases.\textsuperscript{1,2}

As a result of the recent declines in the routine vaccination rates, the CDC has released guidance stating that recommended routine vaccinations are an ESSENTIAL PREVENTIVE HEALTH SERVICE that should be maintained.\textsuperscript{4-6}

Data Sources: HealthVerity COVID-19 Surveillance and Utilization Syndicated Weekly Offering, 2020-2021; Optum’s Insight Clininformatics Data Mart, 2017-2019.\textsuperscript{3

There is urgency to vaccinate adolescents now; significant catch-up is needed, and recovery may be further complicated by pandemic response activities.\textsuperscript{1-3}

References:


As pandemic response activities could be expected to introduce greater complexity into recovery efforts during the 2021 back-to-school season, these are a few points to consider\textsuperscript{5,6}:

- Summertime is a peak time period for adolescents to complete wellness visits where preventative services, like the administration of recommended vaccinations, are addressed before or at the start of the school year.\textsuperscript{4,6,7}
- As younger populations become eligible to receive COVID-19 vaccines, thoughtful planning is essential to ensure they receive their routinely recommended and catch-up vaccinations.\textsuperscript{5,7}
- Currently there are no data or recommendations to support concomitant use of COVID-19 vaccine with other vaccines.\textsuperscript{5}

Data Sources: HealthVerity COVID-19 Surveillance and Utilization Syndicated Weekly Offering, 2020-2021; Optum’s Insight Clinformatics Data Mart, 2017-2019.\textsuperscript{4}
THE TIME TO ACT IS NOW

Now is the time to ensure children and adolescents receive their routinely recommended vaccinations.¹

The following are solutions that may support increased awareness, access, and uptake of routinely recommended vaccines:

1. Ensure that providers use every OPPORTUNITY TO VACCINATE²,³

2. Ensure recommended office safety measures and appointment availability are CLEARLY COMMUNICATED³

3. IDENTIFY APPROPRIATE PATIENTS and utilize patient outreach programs through centralized Reminder Recall⁴

4. RAISE AWARENESS by incorporating digital and mainstream media campaigns as part of outreach programs⁵,⁶

5. Consider alternate VACCINATION OPPORTUNITIES, such as curbside clinics or “drive-through” appointments³