

UNMASK THE FACTS

August 30 - September 5

September 1, 2021

Mu variant of COVID-19 could be more vaccine-resistant

A new coronavirus "variant of interest" named Mu has shown signs of possible resistance to COVID-19 vaccines. The WHO warns that the Mu variant has several mutations that could make it more resistant to vaccines, but they also stress the need for further research to confirm this hypothesis. Globally, Mu makes up less than 0.1% of cases; however, its prevalence has grown in Colombia and Ecuador, where it now accounts for about 39% and 13% of new infections, respectively.

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September 1, 2021

Vaccination reduces the risk of long COVID, even after breakthrough infection

A new U.K. study shows that people who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 appear to have a much lower likelihood of developing long COVID than unvaccinated people or even people who've only received a single dose of a two-dose COVID-19 vaccine series. The same holds true even if they contracted COVID-19 after vaccination. These results suggest that the risk of long COVID is reduced in individuals who have received both doses of their vaccine series.

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September 1, 2021

CDC launches COVID-19 toolkit for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) created a [COVID-19 toolkit](#) with communication resources explaining in plain language how people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD)—and their caregivers—can protect themselves from the virus. The toolkit contains social stories, videos, posters, and interactive activities that focus on five topics: Getting a COVID-19 vaccine, wearing a mask, social distancing, handwashing, and getting a COVID-19 test.

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September 3, 2021

The number of children admitted to the hospital for COVID-19 increased last month

COVID-19 cases, emergency department visits, and hospital admissions increased from June to August 2021 among persons aged 0-17 years old. In August alone, hospitalizations among children and adolescents increased by nearly 400% in states with low vaccination levels compared to those with higher levels of vaccination. This recent report concludes that community vaccination, in coordination with testing strategies and other prevention measures, is critical to protecting pediatric populations from COVID-19 infection and severe illness.

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September 3, 2021

Data from this summer shows COVID-19 can be dangerous for children and adolescents

Since the rise of the Delta variant, more young children and unvaccinated adolescents have needed to go to the hospital for problems related to COVID-19 infection. From late June to mid-August, the number of kids between 0-4 years old who were hospitalized for COVID-19 increased tenfold. Hospitalization rates were also 10 times higher among unvaccinated adolescents than among those who were fully vaccinated. Preventive measures to reduce transmission and severe outcomes in children and adolescents are critical, including vaccination.

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Americares is a health-focused relief and development organization that responds to people affected by poverty or disaster with life-changing health programs, medicine, medical supplies and emergency aid.

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