

UNMASK THE FACTS

September 13 – 19

September 14, 2021

CDC updates COVID-19 isolation guidance to include children

CDC released an update early last week that condenses guidance for home isolations due to COVID-19 exposures. This update expands recommendations to account for children. According to the interim guidance, for most children and adults with symptomatic COVID-19 infection, isolation and precautions can be discontinued 10 days after symptom onset and after the resolution of fever for at least 24 hours (and the improvement of other acute symptoms).

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September 16, 2021

Experts call for further study of menstrual cycle changes following COVID-19 vaccination

Over 30,000 reports of changes to periods or vaginal bleeding following COVID-19 vaccination have been made to the MHRA's surveillance system (the UK version of the FDA). However, researchers haven't formally linked the vaccines to these short-term changes. Vaccine hesitancy among young women is largely driven by false claims that COVID-19 vaccines can harm fertility. A recent editorial in the BMJ suggests that failing to investigate these reports could help fuel that fear.

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September 16, 2021

Healthcare rationing begins in areas of the West due to surges in COVID-19 hospitalizations

A surge in unvaccinated COVID-19 patients requiring hospitalization has nearly crippled some health systems. Some states have begun enacting "crisis care standards" in their clinics this week, which means that scarce resources such as ICU beds will be given to patients who are most likely to survive. Public health leaders in Idaho, one of the least vaccinated states in the country, recently expanded health care rationing statewide, and hospital systems in Alaska and Montana have enacted similar crisis standards.

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September 17, 2021

Government advisory panels votes against authorizing COVID-19 boosters for everyone

The FDA's Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee voted 16-2 to reject a booster dose of Pfizer's mRNA COVID-19 vaccine (Comirnaty) to all Americans 16 and older. However, the panel unanimously supported a booster dose for people 65 and older and for those at higher risk of severe illness or exposure to COVID-19, including healthcare workers. The current recommendation is vague and nonbinding. The FDA will make its own decision based on the panel's advice, and the CDC will discuss their recommendations later this week.

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September 17, 2021

Most Americans say COVID-19 rules have helped slow the spread of the virus

A recent poll by the Pew Research Center shows that many Americans believe that COVID-19 restrictions have helped slow the spread of the virus. Most people surveyed (62%) said the restrictions have been worth the cost, compared to 37% who say the restrictions were not. About 80% of respondents say masks should be required on planes and public transportation and 79% say international travel should be restricted.

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