More than 70% of COVID-19 spread in U.S. households started with a child

A study published early last month suggests that 70.4% of nearly 850,000 U.S. household COVID-19 transmissions started with a child. Younger kids (those who were 8 years old or younger) were more likely to spread the virus than older kids (7.6% vs 5.8%). Generally, though, children caused more household transmissions during the school year than they did during summer and winter breaks.

MODERNAL and Pfizer-BioNTech requests FDA authorization for their updated COVID-19 vaccines

Both Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna have applied to get the FDA’s okay for their updated COVID-19 vaccines. The new versions of these vaccines aim to provide defense against the XBB.1.5 strain. Unlike the bivalent vaccines, these shots do not also target the original Alpha strain. Only 17% of the U.S. has received the updated bivalent shot since it came out last year. Getting people to get another shot this fall might be a challenge for health officials.

Bridge Access Program will provide COVID-19 vaccines to the uninsured through December 2024

This fall’s updated COVID-19 vaccines will be available directly from the manufacturers, rather than through the government. Uninsured kids will be able to get these vaccines for free through the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program. Uninsured adults will be able to get them through the Bridge Access Program for COVID-19 Vaccines and Treatments. The program will use the existing public health infrastructure and partnerships with pharmacy chains to continue to offer free COVID-19 vaccines to uninsured adults.