New Hampshire COVID-19 Education and Childcare Partner Call

February 23, 2022
Education and Childcare Partner Call Schedule

- 2/16 and 3/2 calls are **cancelled**

- Next webinar will be 3/16 from 3:30-4:30 pm

- Webinar/call information:
  - Zoom link: [https://nh-dhhs.zoom.us/s/98062195081](https://nh-dhhs.zoom.us/s/98062195081)
  - Webinar ID: 980 6219 5081
  - Passcode: 197445
  - Telephone: 646-558-8656
COVID-19 Vaccine for Children 6 Months Through 4 Years of Age
Pfizer and BioNTech Provide Update on Rolling Submission for Emergency Use Authorization of Their COVID-19 Vaccine in Children 6 Months Through 4 Years of Age

Friday, February 11, 2022 - 01:30pm

“Given that the study is advancing at a rapid pace, the companies will wait for the three-dose data... The companies expect to have three-dose protection data available in early April.”
COVID-19 Prevention Strategies in K-12 Schools and Childcare Programs
COVID-19 Prevention Strategies

- Promote vaccination
- Face mask use
- Physical distancing and cohorting
- Screening testing
- Increasing ventilation
- Handwashing and respiratory etiquette
- Staying home when sick and getting tested
- Isolation and quarantine
- Cleaning and disinfection
COVID-19 Prevention and Risk

• NH DPHS has historically based recommendations on the “level of community transmission” as a surrogate for COVID-19 risk
  – As risk decreases, prevention strategies can be relaxed

• Current community transmission metrics are based on COVID-19 incidence and test positivity, but no longer accurately reflect risk

• Prevention strategies should take into account:
  – Disease severity
  – Differences in risk for different populations (e.g., people who are immunocompromised)
  – Acceptability and sustainability of prevention strategies
Evolving COVID-19 Prevention Strategies
(From webinar on 9/15/2021)

- Once vaccination is available for school aged children, and children have had the opportunity to be vaccinated we will transition away from relying on mitigation measures

- Mitigation measures are intended to be a temporizing bridge until we can vaccinate younger age groups

- We can also relax prevention strategies when community transmission is lower, which will happen more quickly when people get vaccinated
### STAGES OF THE PANDEMIC

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recognition/Initiation</th>
<th>Middle</th>
<th>Transition/End*</th>
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<td>Early Identification &amp; Testing</td>
<td>Mitigation Measures (Non-Pharmaceutical Interventions)</td>
<td>Vaccination &amp; Therapeutics</td>
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<td>Community Partnerships</td>
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*“End” indicates a formal end to the pandemic, not an end to circulation of SARS-CoV-2*
Balancing Competing Priorities

• Need to balance pandemic control with other health priorities

• The goal is overall population health protection and promotion
Current Situation

• Omicron surge is decreasing in NH and nationally

• As population immunity increases, there has been a decline in severity of COVID-19

• COVID-19 vaccination has been available to all school-age children since the beginning of November 2021

• COVID-19 is expected to continue to circulate (it remains uncertain what the future “baseline” might be)

• Risk is decreasing
Research Letter

February 21, 2022

Severity of Hospitalizations from SARS-CoV-2 vs Influenza and Respiratory Syncytial Virus Infection in Children Aged 5 to 11 Years in 11 US States

William Encinosa, PhD¹; Jessica Fiqueroa, MS²; Youssef Elias, MD, PhD³


- Inpatient data from 11 states in the U.S.
- Compared COVID-19 hospitalizations in Jan-Mar 2021 to Influenza and RSV hospitalizations in Jan-Mar 2017
- COVID-19 and MIS-C hospitalizations (combined) occurred at a rate of 10.8 per 100,000 children
- Influenza and RSV hospitalizations occurred at a rate of 17.0 and 6.2 hospitalizations per 100,000 children, respectively
Face Mask Recommendations

• NH DPHS is no longer recommending universal masking

• NH DOE will be sending out a communication to schools by the end of the day
Important Face Mask Considerations

• Per CDC’s Order, face masks must still be worn on public transportation, including school buses

• Face masks should still be worn to shorten isolation and quarantine to 5 days (see isolation & quarantine guidance)

• People who are severely immunocompromised should still consider wearing a face mask for their own protection when in indoor public locations

• Anybody who wants additional protection for themselves or others in their home can choose to wear a face mask when in indoor public locations

Continue Other Infection Prevention Measures

- Increase ventilation in classrooms and buildings
- Frequent hand hygiene and good respiratory etiquette
- Exclude and test children, students, staff who develop new and unexplained symptoms of COVID-19
- Cohorting in childcare programs (to the extent possible)
- Isolation and quarantine (see NH guidance) for people infected with COVID-19 and household contacts who are not up-to-date on COVID-19 vaccination
- Consider asymptomatic screening testing
Existing COVID-19 Risk

• There likely will always be risk from COVID-19

• There needs to be reasonable and sustainable approaches to managing COVID-19

• This increasingly will rely on vaccination and population immunity

• We continue to maintain surveillance for new variants and changes in community risk

• The public health community continues to assess and discuss how best to measure and track COVID-19 risk
Q&A
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