

Preventing COVID-19 in Chicago Children

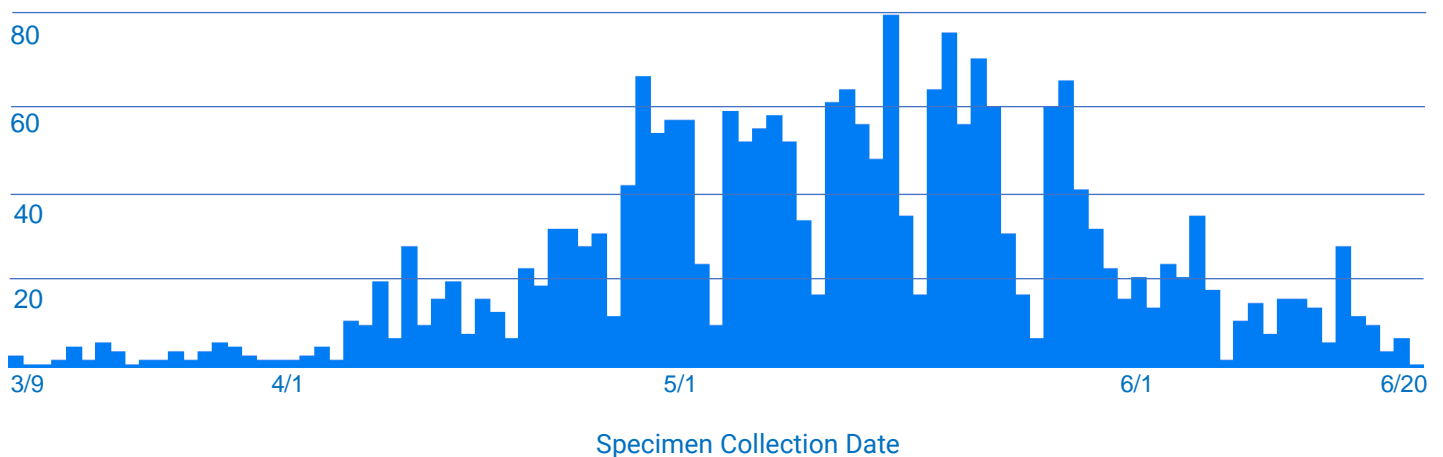
Data Current as of June 20th, 2020

COVID-19 affects children of all ages. Among Chicago residents, 4.5% of diagnosed COVID-19 cases have been among children younger than 18 years. Recent data suggests that while cases occur at lower rates than the adult population, Latinx children appear to be disproportionately affected. This brief intends to describe features of COVID-19 in Chicago’s pediatric residents along with recommendations for families to keep their children healthy.

Key Findings

- **2,317** pediatric COVID-19 cases have been reported across Chicago
- **17%** of all children tested for COVID-19 have been positive
- **37%** of pediatric cases have occurred in the 14-17 years age group
- **Latinx children are disproportionately affected:** 66% of pediatric cases with known race, ethnicity were reported as Latinx compared to 48% of all COVID-19 cases in Chicago and 29% of Chicago’s population overall
- **Severe outcomes are rare but do occur:** Overall, 4.6% of pediatric cases with information on hospitalization (2270) have been hospitalized with COVID-19, and 2 deaths in COVID-19 positive children have been recorded

Lab-Confirmed COVID-19 Cases Among Chicago Children Aged 0-17 Years, March 9 – June 20, 2020



Testing Results: By the Numbers

	0-4 years old	5-9 years old	10-13 years old	14-17 years old
Number Tested	4422	3364	1,985	4,060
Number/Percent Positive	493 (11%)	584 (17%)	394 (20%)	846 (21%)
Number/Percent Hospitalized	46 (10.7%)	16 (2.7%)	11 (2.8%)	32 (3.8%)

Understanding Risk Factors: Home Environments

The Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH) is using data to help families identify risk factors for COVID-19. The risk of COVID-19 may increase as more family members live within one apartment, home, or shared home environment. Strategies to keep families safe in shared home environments can be found at [cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus) under Daily Life and Coping, [Guidance for Households Living in Close Quarters](#).

- If a family member is known to have COVID-19, they should be kept separate from other household members as much as possible and use a separate room and bathroom, if available, until 10 days from the start of their symptoms and at least 3 days have passed since their fever resolved and other symptoms start improving.
- For family members at higher risk for developing serious complications from COVID-19 illness, like older adults and people of any age who have severe underlying medical conditions like heart or lung disease or diabetes, you may even have to consider alternate housing.
- Testing is one important element of our citywide strategy to protect families who have been exposed to COVID-19 or think they may be sick. Call your healthcare provider or go to [chi.gov/covidtesting](https://www.chi.gov/covidtesting) to find a location to get tested.

Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome (MIS-C)

A unique condition related to COVID-19 has been newly described in the pediatric population called Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome (MIS-C). This condition is found in children infected or previously infected with COVID-19 and is characterized by a fever for greater than 24 hours along with signs of inflammation in at least two organ systems¹. Children often require intensive care and life support measures. Some key findings from Chicago MIS-C cases in children (as of 6/23/2020) include:

- **12** suspect MIS-C cases with onset of symptoms from April to June have been reported to CDPH since May 2020
- **83%** of MIS-C cases occurred in **males**
- Median age of MIS-C cases was **9.5 years** (range: 2-12 years)
- **No** pediatric deaths have been attributed to MIS-C in Chicago

Tips for Kids to Stay Safe this Summer

While pediatric cases are declining in Chicago, as more gatherings, sports teams, and camps resume in the next phase of reopening, families should think carefully about how and when their children should participate. In addition to social distancing, hand washing, and other everyday preventative actions, CDC recommends that everyone 2 years and older wear a cloth face covering that covers their nose and mouth when they are out in the community.

- Tips on Preventing COVID-19 in Kids: [English](#) / [Spanish](#)
- Tips on Kids and Sports during COVID-19: [English](#) / [Spanish](#)
- Ways to Talk to Kids about COVID-19: [English](#) / [Spanish](#)

The Chicago Park District (CPD) will offer a [modified version of day camp](#), running from July 6 until August 14th, at 148 parks across the city. Day camps will place a special focus on the following behaviors to reduce the spread of COVID-19:

- Requiring campers wear facemasks during camp, and ensuring social distancing
- Ensuring that campers only interact with their own group during the day
- Ensuring that campers are in good health and modifying sports to limit physical contact

Keeping in Touch with Your Pediatrician during COVID-19

Now more than ever, making sure that your child sees their healthcare provider for well-child visits and vaccines is one of the best things you can do to protect your child and community. Your pediatrician wants to hear from you, so don't be afraid to call. Even though families are staying home to prevent the spread of COVID-19, there are still reasons children need to be seen at their provider's office:

- **Newborn visits** after a baby is born.
- **Staying up-to-date on vaccines.**
 - Flu vaccine will be even more important this year since COVID-19 and flu together could be dangerous.
- **Tracking growth and development** including milestones, social behaviors, and learning.
- **Checking labs** such as routine lead tests or treating infections or injuries.

Pediatricians are taking steps to make sure it's as safe as possible for office visits that need to happen in person and for other kinds of appointments, many pediatricians are now offering video visits. Call your pediatrician's office to see if this is available for your child or teen. Visit chicago.gov/health for information on the [Chicago Vaccines for Children Program](#).