

SAFE & SUCCESSFUL SCHOOLS

California Dept of Public Health

State Board of Education

November 22, 2021



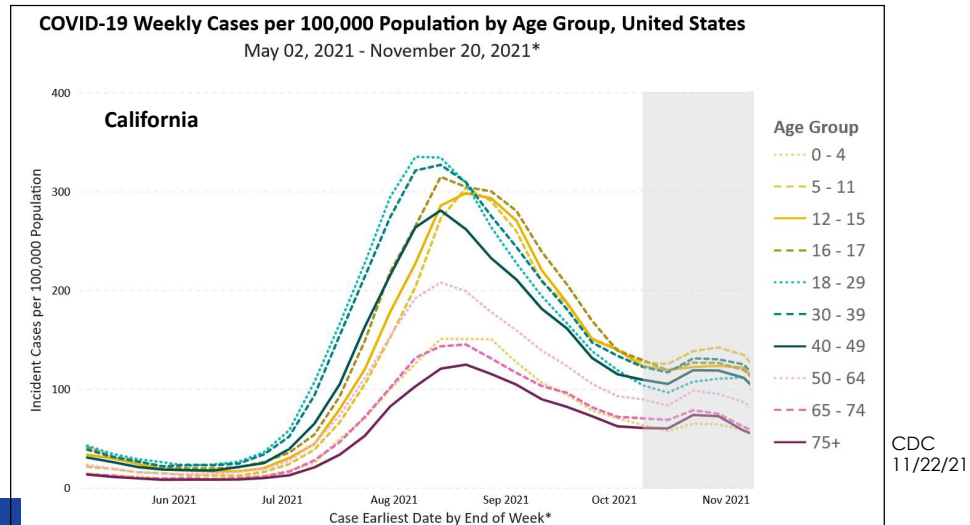
Agenda

1. Review of the School Year To-Date
2. The Future of Mitigation in Schools
3. Conclusions

1. Review of the School Year To-Date

Keeping Kids Safe

California did not experience a sustained rise in pediatric cases during the Delta surge despite schools reopening...



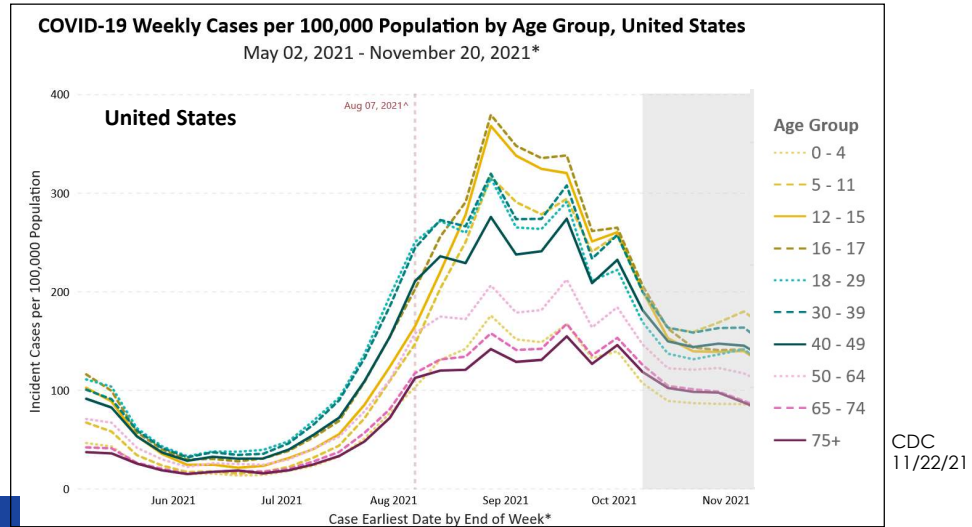
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SAFE SCHOOLS FOR ALL

Reference:

<https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#demographicsovertime>

**...unlike the United States (and the South in particular),
which high pediatric case spikes as schools opened**



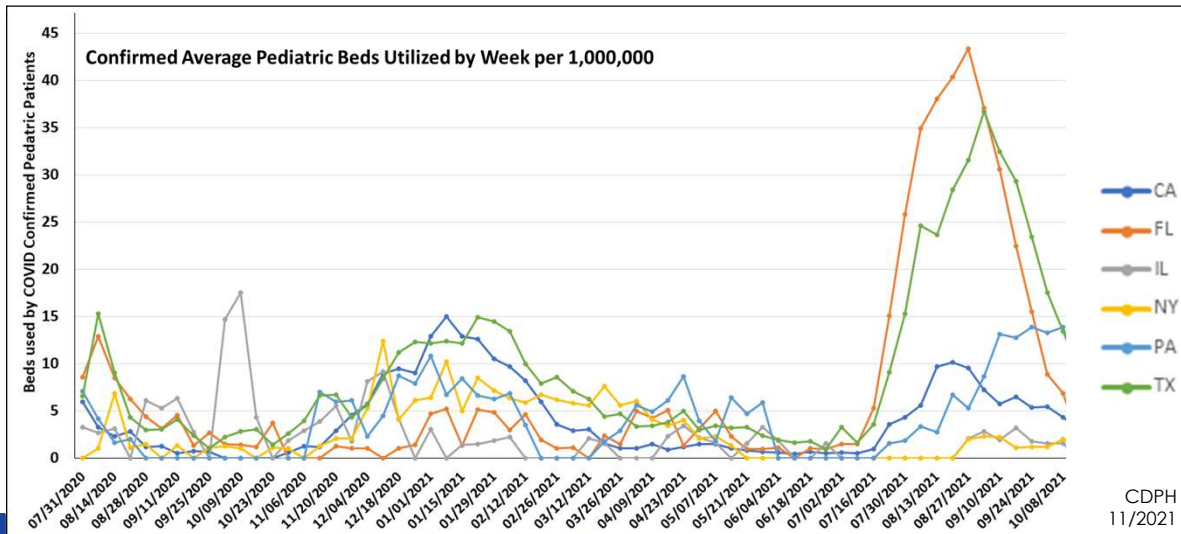
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SAFE SCHOOLS FOR ALL

Reference:

<https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#demographicsovertime>

Pediatric hospitalizations in California remained lower compared to many other states



7

SAFE SCHOOLS FOR ALL

Reference:
CDPH Internal Analysis using CDC data

Pediatrics hospitals & ICUs were overwhelmed this summer in Texas

DFW Area Pediatric ICU Beds More Than 99% Occupied, Hospital Council Says

By Caroline Vandergriff August 10, 2021 at 6:00 pm Filed Under: Covid-19, DFW Hospital Council, DFW News, pediatric ICU

Aug 10, 2021

Number of US children hospitalized with COVID-19 hits record; Dallas out of pediatric ICU beds

Erica Carbajal - Monday, August 16th, 2021 [Print](#) | [Email](#)

Aug 16, 2021

TARRANT COUNTY

Pediatric Hospital Beds, ICUs Full in Tarrant County, Health Director Says

By Lili Zheng • Published September 14, 2021 • Updated on September 14, 2021 at 6:44 pm



Sept 14, 2021

"In Dallas, we have zero ICU beds left for children," Clay Jenkins, Dallas County judge, said during an Aug. 13 news conference. "That means if your child's in a car wreck, if your child has a congenital heart defect or something and needs an ICU bed, or more likely if they have COVID-19 and need an ICU bed, we don't have one. Your child will wait for another child to die."

Mr. Jenkins added that the 19 counties surrounding Dallas were also out of pediatric ICU beds, and that young patients needing care would likely be transferred outside the state."

- [Beckers Hospital Review](#) (8/16/21)

References:

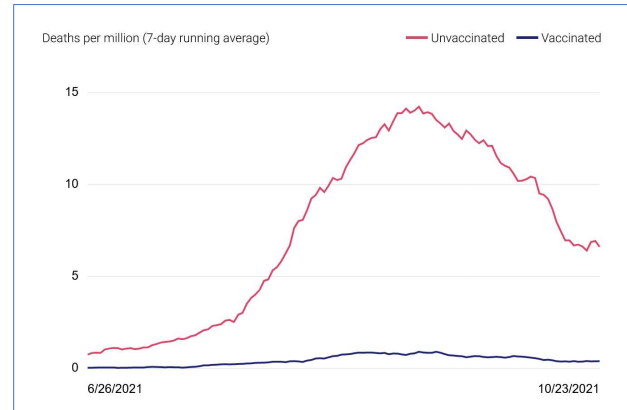
<https://dfw.cbslocal.com/2021/08/10/pediatric-icu-beds-occupied-dfw-hospital-council/>

<https://www.beckershospitalreview.com/patient-flow/number-of-us-children-hospitalized-with-covid-19-hits-record-dallas-out-of-pediatric-icu-beds.html>

<https://www.nbcdfw.com/news/coronavirus/pediatric-hospital-beds-icus-full-in-tarrant-county-health-director-says/2741699/>

Vaccinations remain potent and protective

- During the latest reporting periods, compared to fully vaccinated people, unvaccinated Californians were...
 - 6.9 times more likely to get COVID-19
 - 11.9 times more likely to be hospitalized
 - 16.5 times more likely to die
- Nationwide, CDC researchers observed that hospitalizations among unvaccinated adolescents were 10 times higher than fully vaccinated



covid19.ca.gov
11/20/21

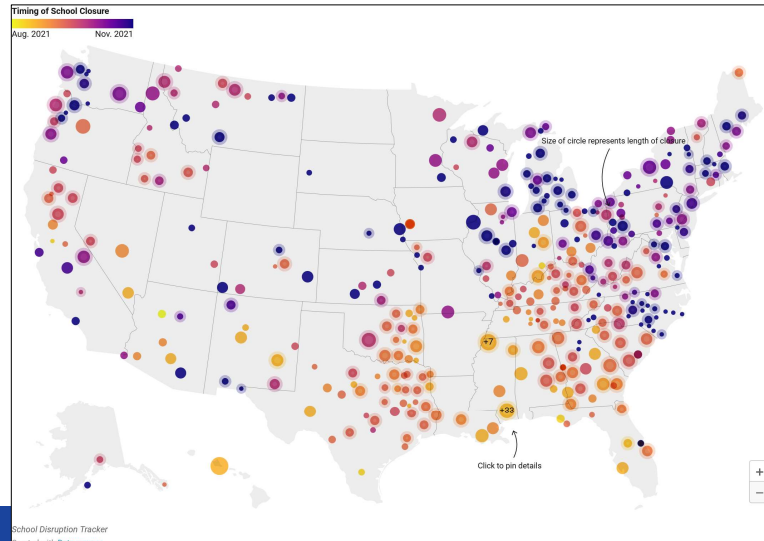
References:

covid19.ca.gov

<https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/70/wr/mm7036e2.htm>

Keeping Kids in School

**CA has just 27 of the 8,061 COVID-related school closures nationwide,
(or <0.5% despite educating 12% of the nation's students)**



Burbio
11/22/21

Reference:
<https://cai.burbio.com/school-opening-tracker/>

California School Policies – and Huge Work from All – Have Made a Difference



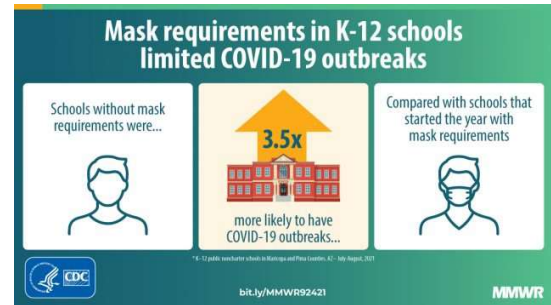
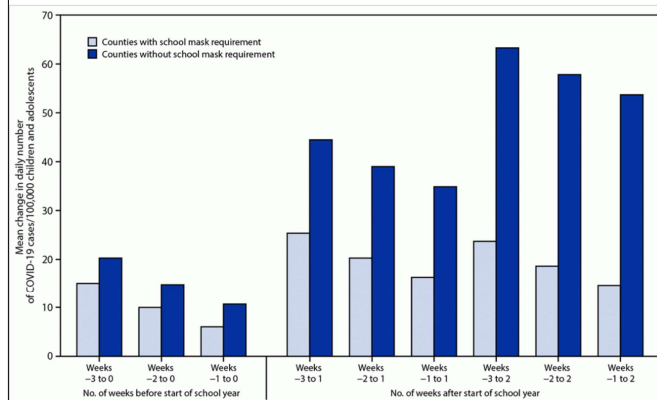
State funded and organized:
Personal Protective Equipment
Testing & tracing
Vaccine clinics

+

State Policies:
Universal Masking Indoors
Modified Quarantine
Vaccinated Educators
Vaccinated Students

Research studies from the 2021-2022 school year corroborate California's experience: Mask policies are effective

FIGURE. Mean county-level change in daily number of COVID-19 cases per 100,000 children and adolescents aged <18 years in counties (N = 520) with and without school mask requirements* before and after the start of the 2021–22 school year — United States, July 1–September 4, 2021



← Increases in pediatric COVID-19 case rates during the start of the 2021–22 school year were smaller in U.S. counties with school mask requirements than in those without school mask requirements.

References:

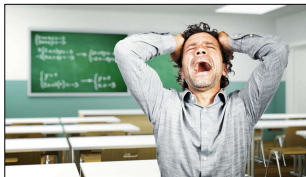
<https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/70/wr/mm7039e3.htm>

<https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/70/wr/mm7039e1.htm>

**We know it
hasn't been
easy...**



... thank you!



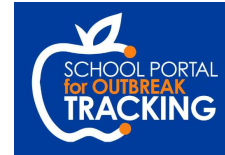
2. The Future of Mitigation in Schools

Short-term efforts have focused on supporting school operations and promoting high yield mitigation strategies

School Administrators & LHDs/Jurisdiction

Portal for School Leaders and LHD/LHJs to Request Technical Assistance from the State Safe Schools For All Team.

[Start Your Request →](#)



K-12 Schools Guidance 2021-2022 Questions & Answers

- 11. What type of test may be used to assess a person's status during quarantine or to exit quarantine?
- 13. Which K-12 settings should be the focus for school-based contact tracing efforts?
- 20. Can K-12 schools host dances and large assemblies?



School Health Repository of Experiences (SHARE)

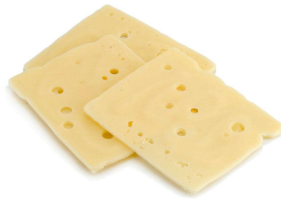
Let's get through this together. SHARE is a space for COVID-19-related health and safety practices and experiences by and for California schools and local health workers.



School Outbreak Response Support

The Testing Task Force has teams available to all K-12 Schools that are designed and equipped to provide rapid testing during outbreaks.

Long Term Outlook:
When we reach the next phase in pandemic response,
mitigation against COVID-19 in schools will look different...

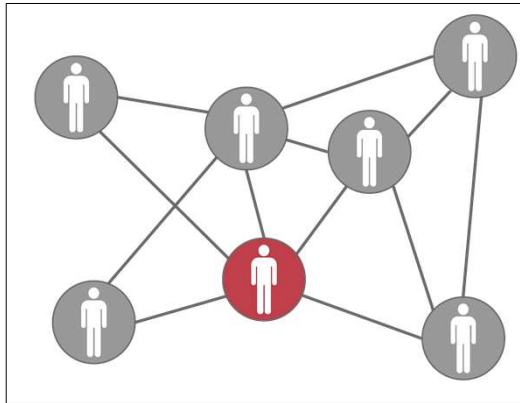




COVID-19 Vaccine Becomes a “Typical” Vaccine, Like Any Other



HVAC System Upgrades Protect Children Against COVID, Other Airborne Infections, Wildfire Smoke, And Air Pollution



**Contact Tracing Becomes Infrequent and
No Longer a Primary Job of Schools**



**When Needed, Testing Occurs Largely
in Clinics and at Home**



**Masking is No Longer “Daily Wear” in Schools but
Optional For Times with Symptoms or in Risky Venues**



Teachers focus on teaching

Timing

Maintaining the Course through Winter

Reaffirming California's Approach to COVID-19 Prevention and Containment in Schools by Continuing Masking Requirements

Date: October 20, 2021

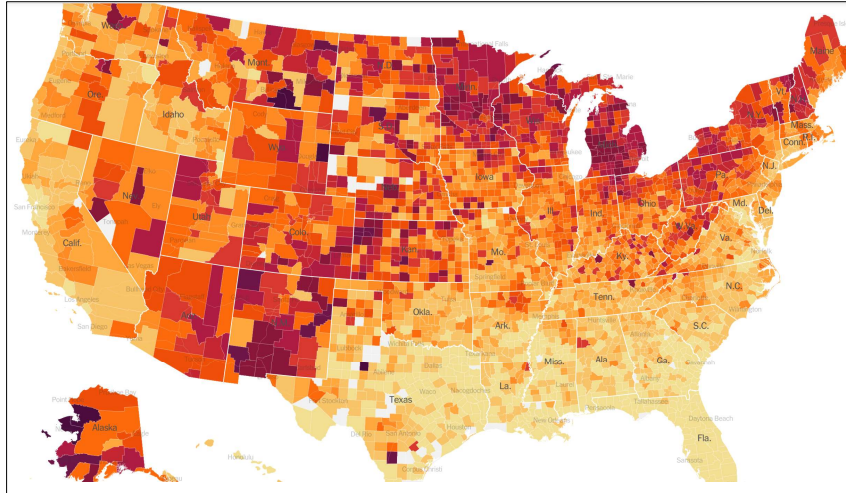
Number: NR21-307

Contact: CDPHpress@cdph.ca.gov

SACRAMENTO - Today, a joint statement issued by California Health and Human Services Agency Secretary Dr. Mark Ghaly, and California Department of Public Health Director and State Public Health Officer Dr. Tomás Aragón, reaffirmed the state's approach to preventing COVID-19 in schools and protecting our students' health – continuing the state's successful masking requirements in K-12 settings:

“...California is reaffirming its current approach to COVID-19 prevention and containment in schools and will continue to maintain the universal indoor mask mandate in K-12 schools and will continue to monitor conditions through the winter.”

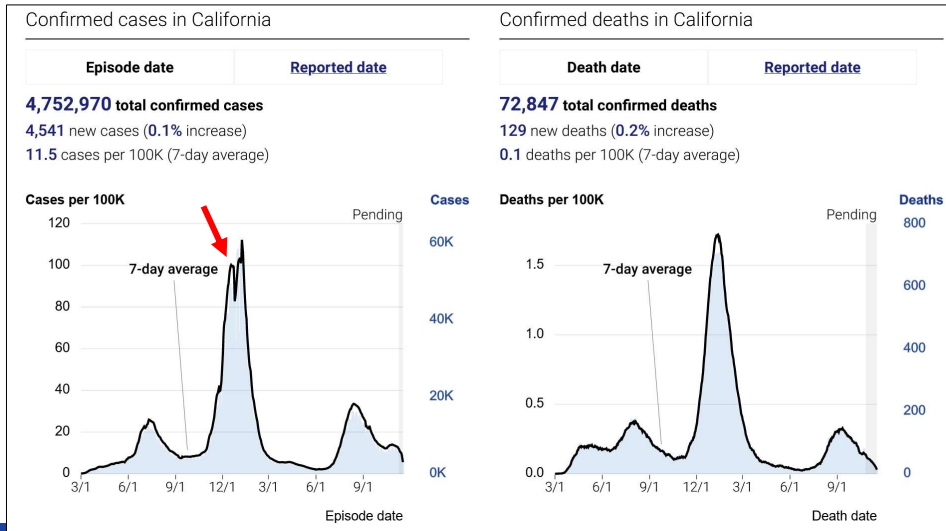
Respiratory Viral Transmission is Greater in Dry, Cold Conditions



Reference:

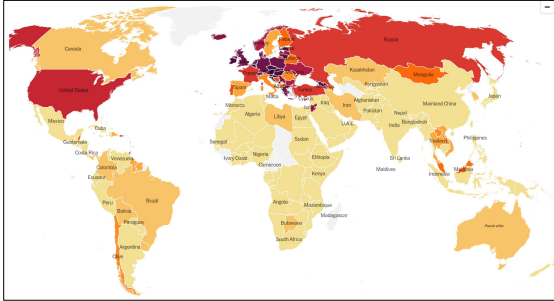
<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2021/us/covid-cases.html>

Californians Gather More Frequently in the Winter

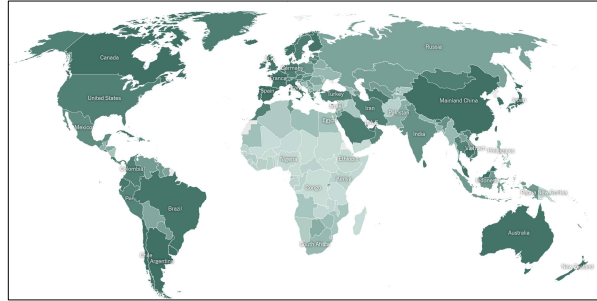


Reference:
<https://covid19.ca.gov/state-dashboard/>

Californians Travel More in the Winter, and Worldwide Vaccination Coverage is Poor



"Hot Spots" : Average daily cases per
100,000 people in the past week

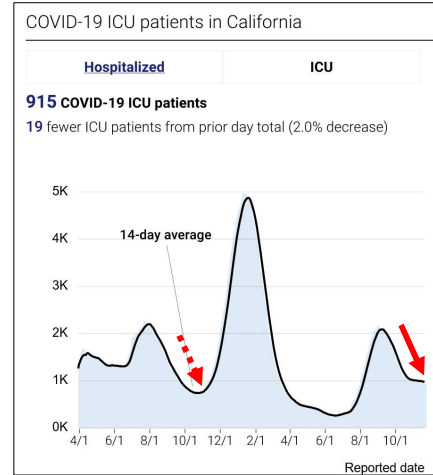
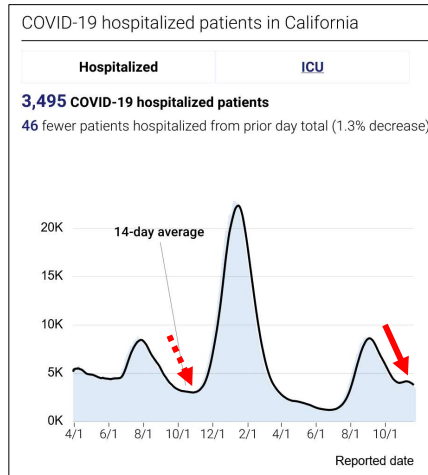


Share of Population Receiving One
Dose of any COVID-19 Vaccine

Reference:

<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2021/world/covid-cases.html>

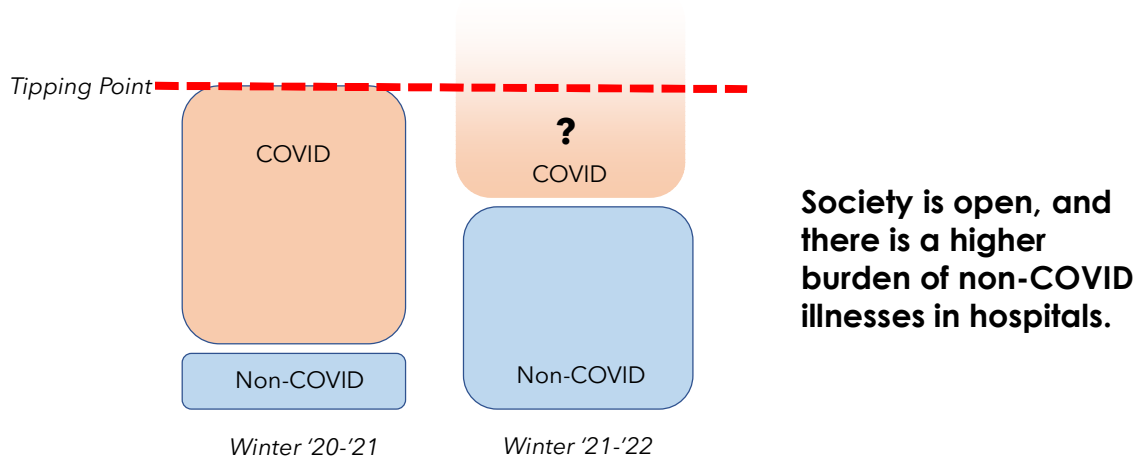
Current hospitalization & ICU numbers are higher than last year



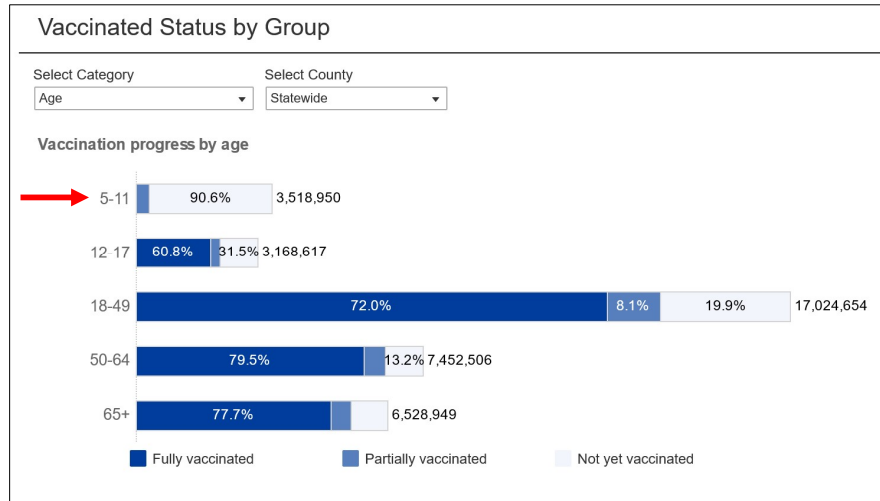
covid19.ca.gov
11/20/21

Reference:
<https://covid19.ca.gov/state-dashboard/>

This Winter, There is Less Margin for Error



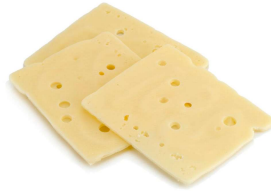
Vaccinations in younger children are just getting started



Reference:
<https://covid19.ca.gov/vaccination-progress-data/>

3. Conclusions

Moving in the Right Direction, with Caution



Physical Distancing
Closing Society

Isolation & Quarantine,
Masking, Testing

Ventilation
Vaccination

Actions We Can Take

- Support Ongoing Use of Masking Indoors
- Encourage and Support Vaccination, including school-located efforts
- Take advantage of opportunities to upgrade infrastructure and improve indoor air quality
- Educate Students and Families about How to Travel Safely, including the importance of masking, testing and being aware of symptoms
- Plan for testing and tracing upon return to school
- Paint a Vision for the Future

