

SAFE AND SUCCESSFUL SCHOOLS

September 1, 2021



Research validates that we must keep schools open to promote the **mental, social-emotional,** and **academic** well-being of students.

CDC: In-Person School Is A Lower-Risk Activity

Compared with children who tested negative for the virus that causes COVID-19, children who tested positive were*...

More likely to have...

Attended gatherings



Weddings



Parties



Playdates



Funerals

Not more likely to have...



Attended child care or school in person

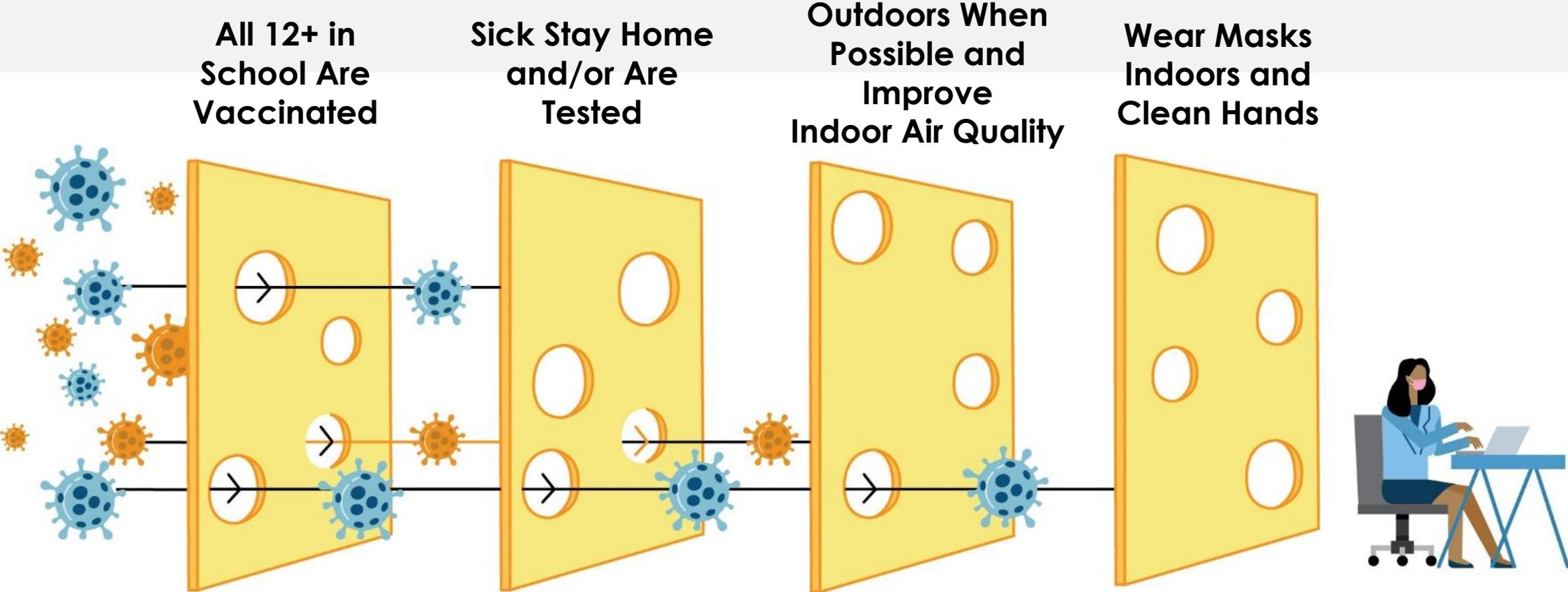
*In the 2 weeks before the positive test.
Case control investigation (154 case-patients, 243 control-participants), MS, September-November, 2020

CDC.GOV

bit.ly/MMWR121520

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Key Safety Layers: Making Schools the Safest Places in the Community



How Have Things Changed with the Delta Variant?

Key Factors	What We Know
Transmissibility	X Delta is more than 2x as contagious as previous variants. This is leading to the current surge in infections.
Virulence and Severity of Symptoms	O Still learning about this. Right now, children continue to develop severe symptoms less often than adults, as with previous variants. Delta's increased transmissibility means more cases of all types, including cases with severe symptoms. Unvaccinated people are more likely to have severe symptoms.
Vaccine Effectiveness	✓ Vaccines are effective against Delta. Less than 1% of vaccinated people experience a "breakthrough infection" (i.e., if you know 100+ people, you are likely to know someone) and less than .005% of COVID hospitalizations have been vaccinated people. Unvaccinated are 11x more likely to get COVID. Those with breakthrough infections appear to be infectious for a shorter period of time.

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH ORDER JUNE 15, 2021

CDPH guidance issued June 15, 2021, requires face coverings indoors for K-12 schools, child care, and other youth settings. LEA employees working with pupils, whether fully vaccinated or not, are required to wear face coverings unless and until the CDPH issues revised guidance.

UPDATE: CDC RECOMMENDATIONS
ALIGN WITH CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH ORDER

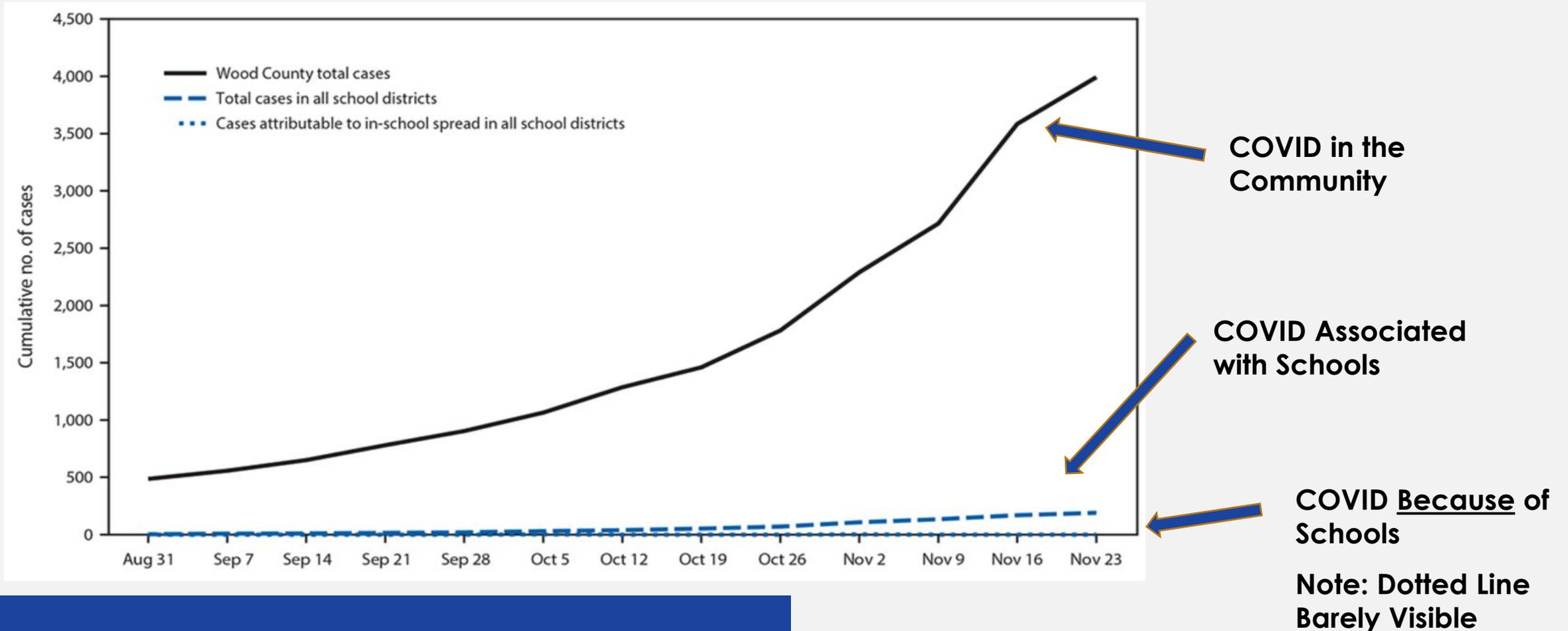
July 28, 2021: Both the CDC and CDPH recommend universal indoor masking to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS

“The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) strongly endorses the use of safe and effective infection control procedures to protect children and adolescents. During the COVID-19 pandemic, effective infection prevention and control requires the correct and consistent use of a well fitting face mask.” (August 11, 2021)

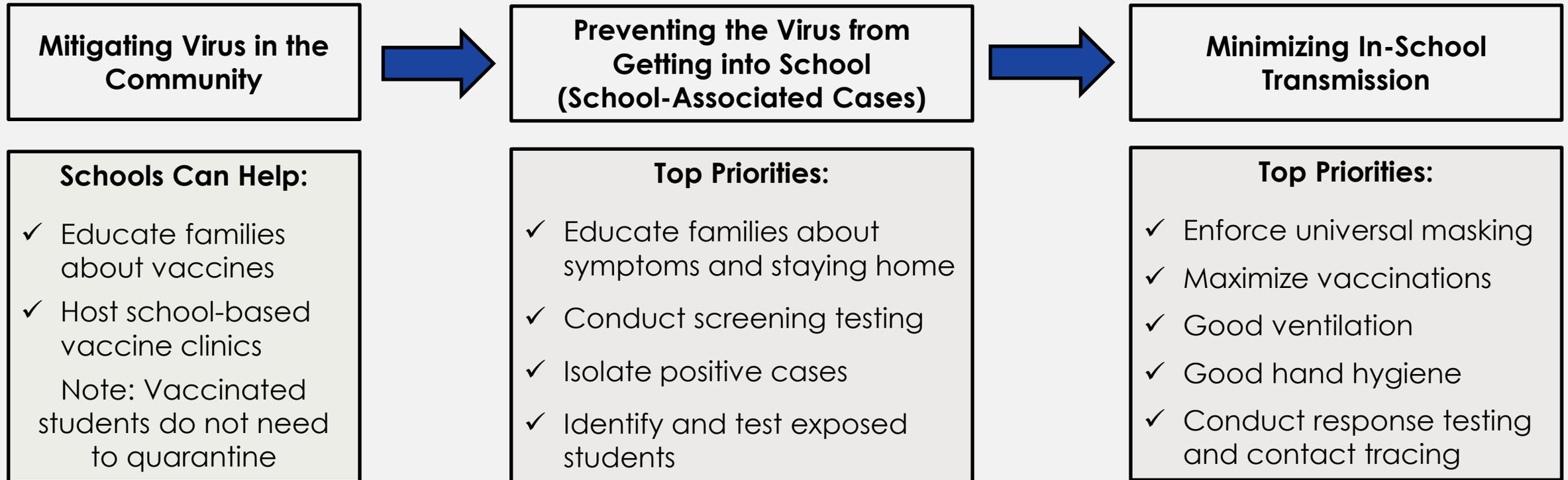
Case Study: Wood County, WI

The following case study conducted in Fall 2020 demonstrates the low risk associated with schools and the importance of focusing on in-school transmissions.



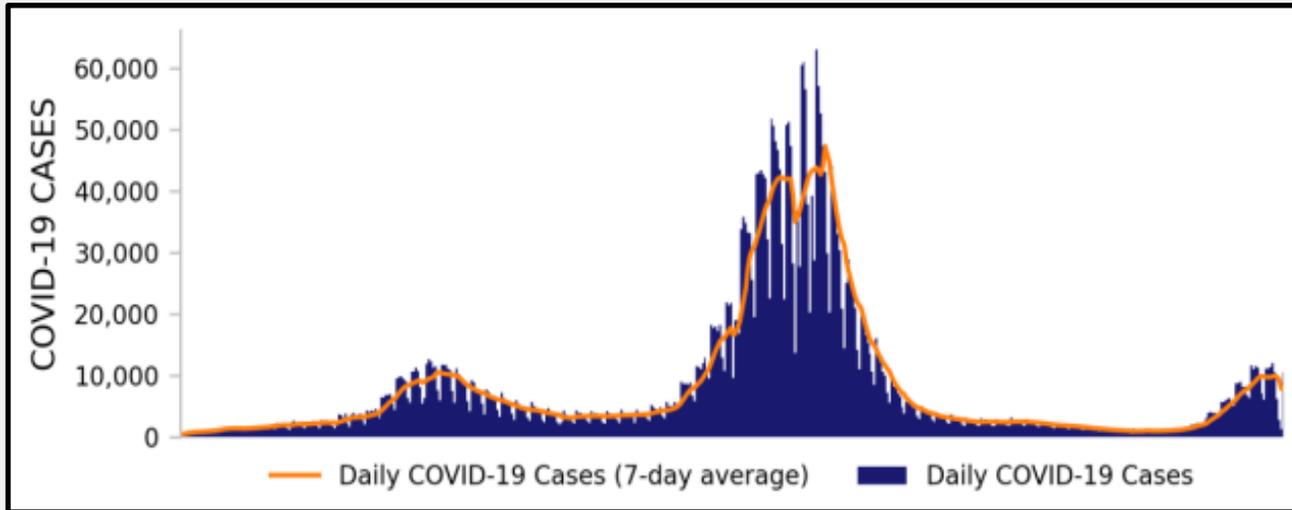
School-Associated vs. In-School Transmissions

Key Objectives: Minimize *in-school* transmissions and maximize in-person instruction.

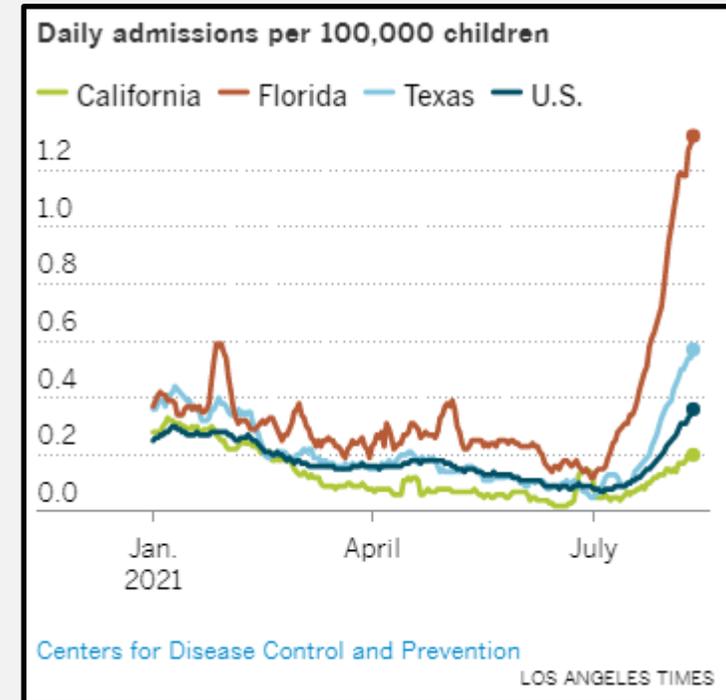


Current Outlook

Over **90%** of new cases in California are the Delta variant.



We are still very far from the Winter Surge and seeing signs that growth is slowing. Nevertheless, schools must plan and prepare for continued elevated rates.



We should learn from the experience of what is happening nationally.

SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY DATA

SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY: COVID-19 DASHBOARD | For the most updated, comprehensive information, visit: <https://covid19-sbcph.hub.arcgis.com/>



COVID-19 Response

Confirmed Cases

330,909

▼ % from previous day ()

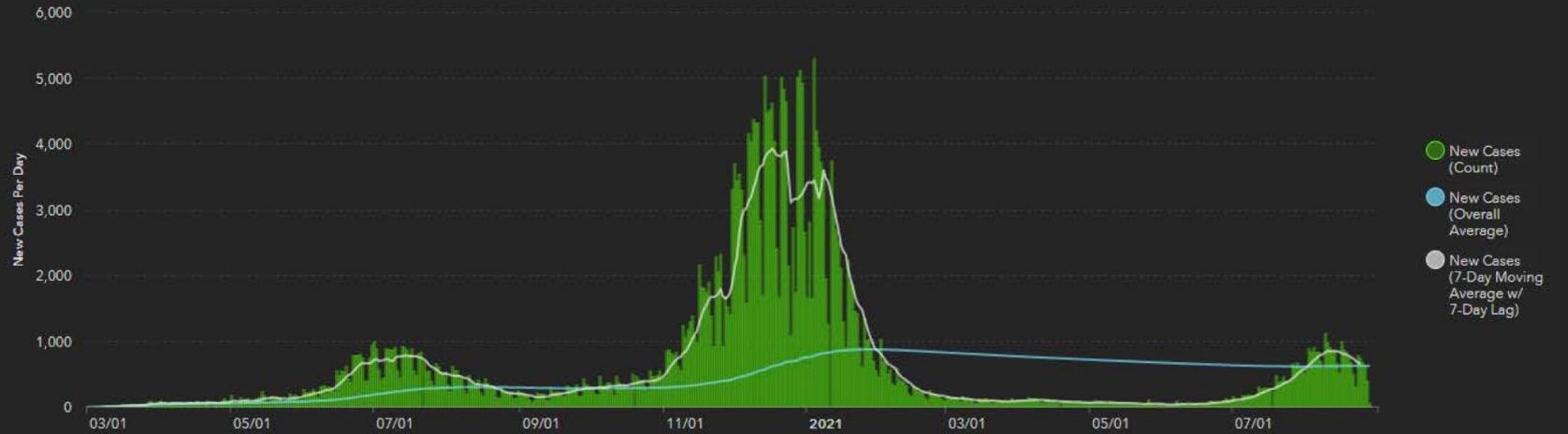
Resolved

320,050

* Resolved cases are those where 10 or more days have passed since the start of symptoms, or since the individual had a positive COVID-19 test (and is not deceased).

Last Update: 8/31/2021, 12:00:00 AM

Confirmed Cases Per Day
(New)



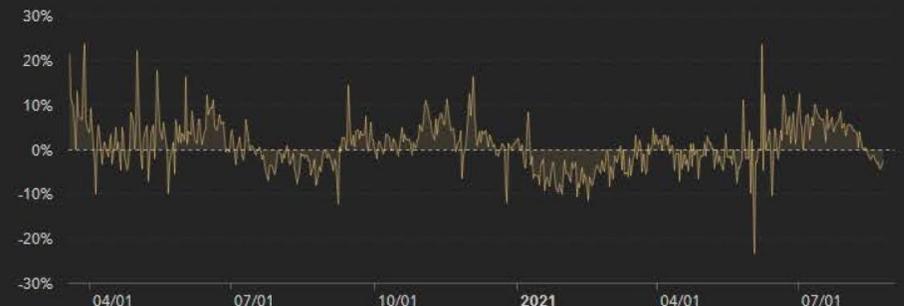
Number of People Infected by One Person (R_0)



Confirmed Cases
(#, Cumulative)



Percent Change in the 7-Day Moving Average



Wide-Angle Lens: What Patterns Are We Seeing?

Transmission Pattern #1: School-associated cases caused by non-school social events.

Example: A suburban high school experienced high levels of cases due to a back-to-school party held the week before school.

Example: Multiple rural high schools in the same community experienced high levels of cases due to attendance at a local fair.

Transmission Pattern #2: Cases caused by symptomatic individuals who went to school while sick.

Example: Two outbreaks associated with individuals (adults and children) coming to school with symptoms, leading to some in-school transmission.

Transmission Pattern #3: Staffing shortages caused by low rates of vaccination among staff.

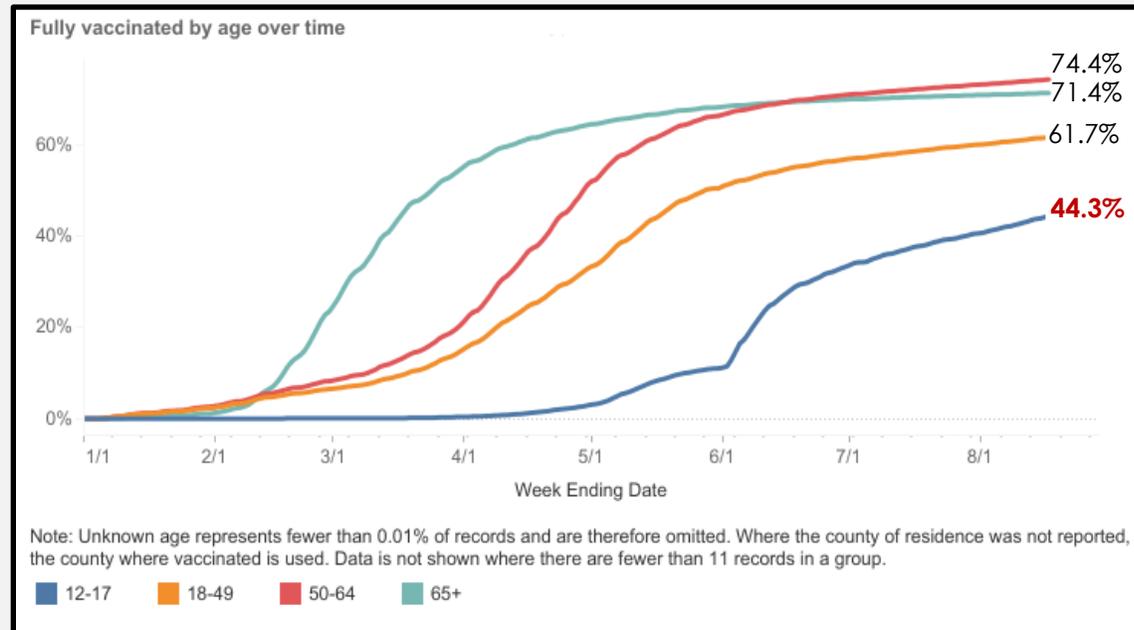
Example: Multiple schools report staffing shortages due to vaccination rates estimated below 70% among staff.

Transmission Pattern #4: Difficulty ramping up testing capacity at sufficient speed.

Example: Multiple school districts with a desire to ramp up testing immediately, but unable to because of a sudden national surge in testing demand.

Vaccines

Vaccines substantially reduce the need for quarantines, especially in middle and high schools.



- Authorization for ages 5-11 expected by mid-winter.
- **86.3%** of counties report establishing school-located clinics for the 2021-22 school year.

Quarantines

General Rule: Throughout the pandemic, quarantine was recommended for anyone who had been within 6 feet of a positive case for 15 minutes or more.

Modified Rule: CDPH recommends a targeted approach in the context of masking, as does the CDC. Under 'Modified Quarantine', a student may remain in class after a possible exposure if:

1. Both students were wearing a mask;
2. The exposed student remains asymptomatic;
3. The exposed student undergoes twice weekly testing; and
4. The exposed student refrains from extracurricular activities.

Rationale: Apply what we have learned about COVID to maximize instructional time, recognizing that masking and testing create additional safety layers.

Staffing

One of the key challenges facing schools is when cases and quarantines cause staffing shortages that, in turn, disrupt the ability to stay open for in-person instruction.

Key Measures to Consider:

- 1. Ensure Staff Are Vaccinated or Tested Weekly.** Consistent with the August 11 public health order, encourage and ensure all staff are vaccinated or tested weekly.
- 2. Employ the Guidance for Vaccinated People.** According to the May 12 public health order, fully vaccinated individuals do not need to quarantine if asymptomatic.
- 3. Recruit Retired Staff and Others to Meet Short-Term Needs.** The Governor issued an executive order on August 16 that makes it easier for schools to bring back recently retired K-12 teachers and staff.

Additional Resources for Strategic Prevention

[U.S. ED COVID-19 Strategies for Safely Reopening Schools](#)

[CCEE Health and Safety Guidebook](#)

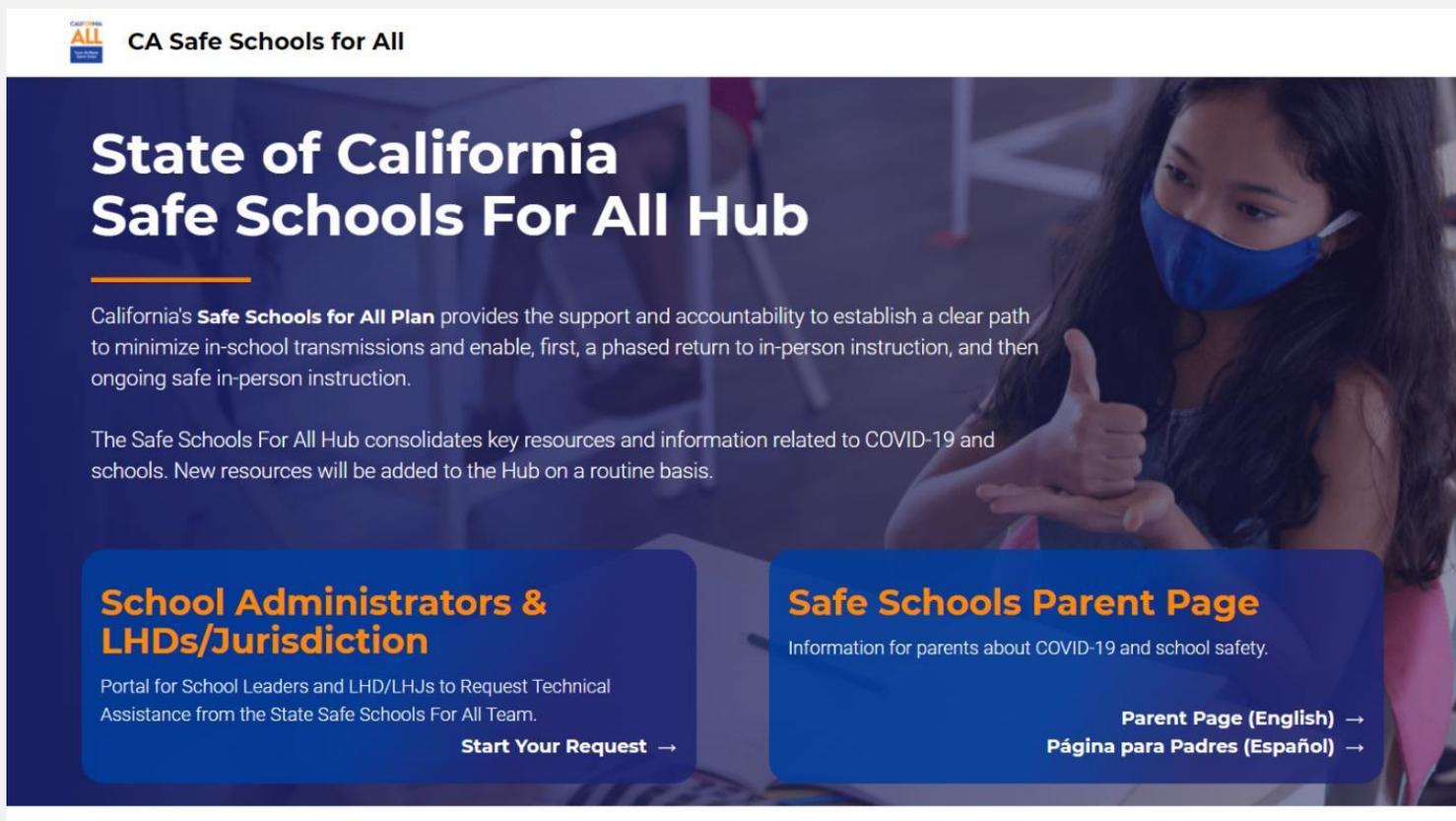
[LPI Resources for Reopening Schools](#)

[American Academy of Pediatrics: Guidance for Safe Schools](#)

If You Have Questions, Please Ask

If you need help or advice, please reach out at the Safe Schools Hub:

schools.covid19.ca.gov



 CA Safe Schools for All

State of California Safe Schools For All Hub

California's **Safe Schools for All Plan** provides the support and accountability to establish a clear path to minimize in-school transmissions and enable, first, a phased return to in-person instruction, and then ongoing safe in-person instruction.

The Safe Schools For All Hub consolidates key resources and information related to COVID-19 and schools. New resources will be added to the Hub on a routine basis.

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](#) →

Safe Schools Parent Page
Information for parents about COVID-19 and school safety.
[Parent Page \(English\)](#) →
[Página para Padres \(Español\)](#) →

THANK YOU

