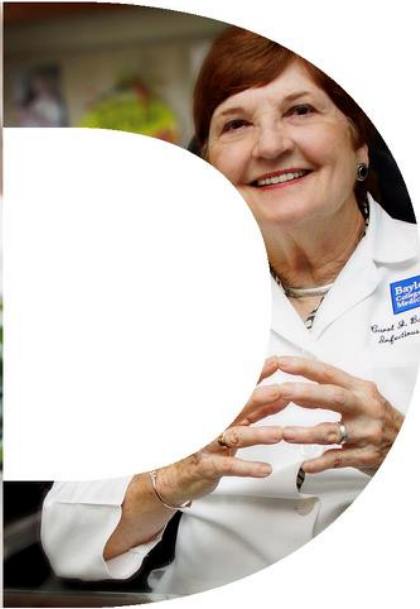


**JULY 16 AT 7:00 P.M. (EST)**

# How Can We Safely Reopen Schools in the Fall?

**A special town hall event for the education community and parents to communicate with health experts**



# Safely Reopening Schools

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- Children and COVID-19
- Health disparities
- Children and Transmission
- Reducing Community Transmission
- Evidence-based Decisions and Flexibility

# Children and COVID-19: Data as of July 2

- Children represented 7.1% of all confirmed cases in states reporting cases by age (49 states, DC, NYC, PR, Guam).
- 49,669 new child cases reported from 6/18-7/2 (116,176 to 165,845 cases), a 43% increase.
- In 20 states and NYC, children were 0.8%-2.8% of total reported hospitalizations.
- In 42 states and NYC, children were 0%-0.5% of all COVID-19 deaths; 23 states reported zero child deaths.

# Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome (MIS-C)

- Different organs become inflamed
- Cause unknown, but most children with MIS-C had COVID-19
- Serious, life-threatening, but most children get well
- Symptoms: fever, abdominal pain, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, neck pain, rash, bloodshot eyes, fatigue
- Emergency warning signs: trouble breathing, chest pain/pressure, confusion, bluish lips/face, severe abdominal pain
- Supportive care, anti-inflammatories, IVIG



# Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome (MIS-C)

Targeted surveillance for MIS-C from March 15 to May 20, 2020

- 186 patients with MIS-C in 26 states
- 31% Hispanic or Latinx, 25% Black/African American
- 71% had involvement of at least 4 organ systems
- 80% ICU, 20% mechanical ventilator
- As of May 20, 70% discharged alive, 28% still hospitalized, 4% died

# Children and Transmission: Much is Still Unknown

- Multiple studies suggest that young children have lower rates of infection than older children and adults
  - Geneva: Ages 5-9 risk was 32% that of adults age 20-49 and no significant difference between 10-19 yo and 20-49 yo
  - Iceland: Age < 10: 6.7% positive, Age > 10: 13.7% positive  
Increased gradually from 10-20 years

? Does this mean less transmission from younger kids?

# Children and Transmission: Much is Still Unknown

- Children may not transmit to their families as well as adults do:  
Multiple studies have found children are the index cases in fewer than 10% of COVID-19 familial clusters
- Is it less virus? No clear evidence for this.  
German study found no significant difference in the viral loads of SARS-CoV2 "between any pair of age categories, including children...children may be as infectious as adults."

Sources: <https://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/early/2020/07/08/peds.2020-1576>

<https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2020.03.26.20044826v1>

[https://zoonosen.charite.de/fileadmin/user\\_upload/microsites/m\\_cc05/virologie-ccm/dateien\\_upload/Weitere\\_Dateien/analysis-of-SARS-CoV-2-viral-load-by-patient-age.pdf](https://zoonosen.charite.de/fileadmin/user_upload/microsites/m_cc05/virologie-ccm/dateien_upload/Weitere_Dateien/analysis-of-SARS-CoV-2-viral-load-by-patient-age.pdf)



# The Best We Can Do is Look at Real Life Examples

- Denmark reopened schools to students in mid-April with little impact on transmission. Same was true in Finland. Openings were staggered by age.
- Israel reopened schools in May, 244 new infections among children and school personnel (130 at a single school).
- As of July 6 in Texas, over 1300 cases in over 800 child care facilities (894 staff; 441 children)
- In July, a camp in Missouri closed after 41 campers and staff were infected; 4 days later, 82 total infections reported

# Unresolved questions: Is 3 feet vs. 6 feet better for physical distancing?

- CDC: students spaced 6 feet apart when feasible
- AAP: spacing as close as 3 feet may approach the benefits of 6 feet of space, esp. with face coverings and no symptoms
- Lancet, June 1: review of 172 studies across 16 countries and six continents found risk of infection by keeping a distance of 3 feet or more was 3% versus 13% with distance less than 3 feet.
- What should schools do?

# Cannot forget: COVID-19 and Health Disparities

As of June 12, 2020, age-adjusted hospitalization rates show significant disparities:

- Native Americans 5x that of whites
- Black/African Americans 5x that of whites
- Hispanic/Latinx 4x that of whites

# Reducing Transmission

- Reducing transmission throughout the community = Safer schools
  - Masks/face coverings
  - Physical distancing
  - Hand hygiene
  - Ventilation
- **Evidence-based** policies and protocols that are flexible and change as our understanding matures
  - Include opening and closing protocols – what happens when cases are detected
- Access to public health expertise