

El Paso County Public Health COVID-19 Children and Youth Data Brief September 28, 2021

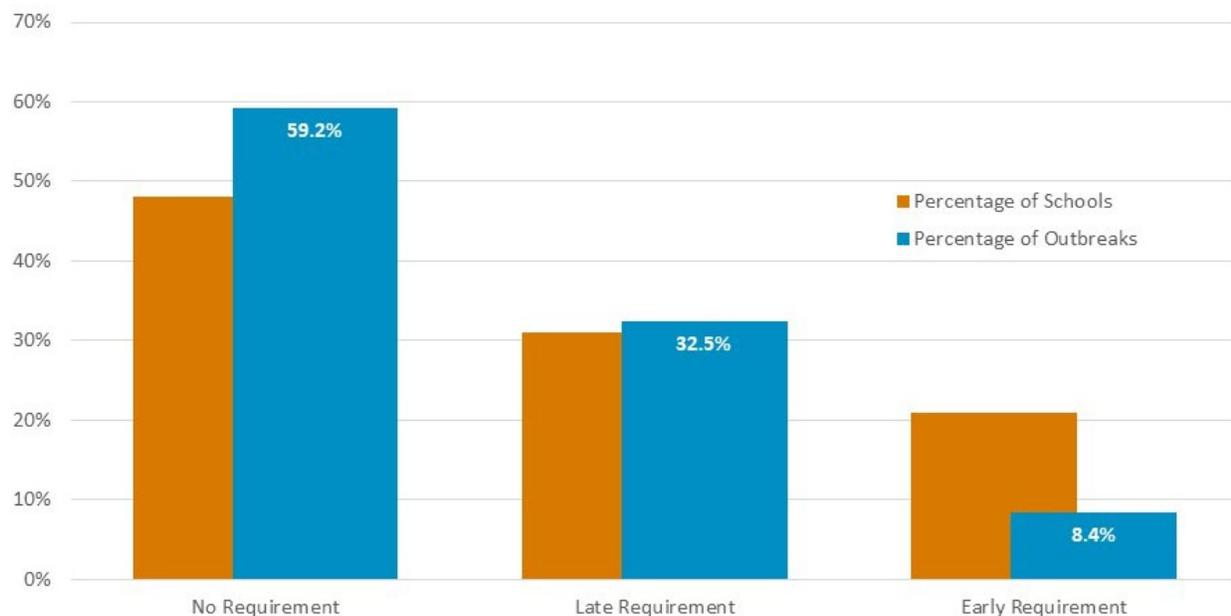
Background

Public Health provides weekly data briefs with El Paso County-specific data on COVID-19, with a focus on impacts to children and youth ages 17 and younger, to help keep community partners informed and provide situational awareness.

Data around disease transmission and masks in the school setting

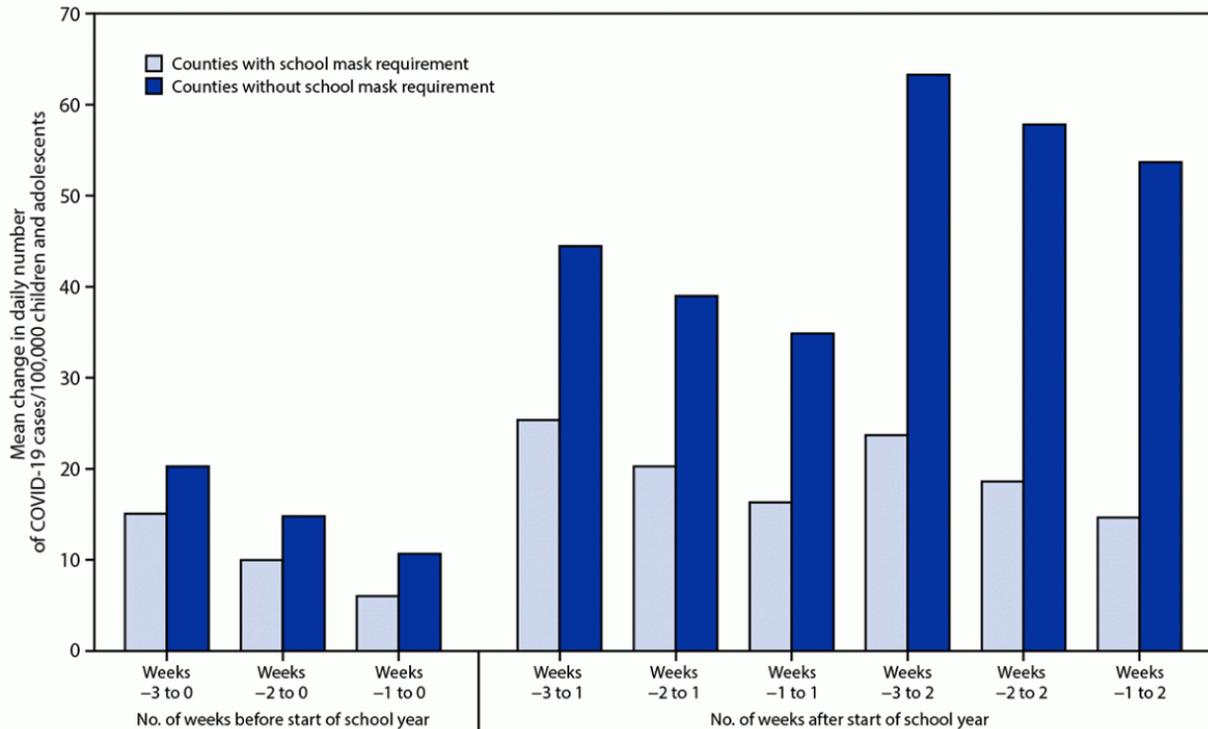
A [CDC analysis of schools in Arizona’s Maricopa and Pima Counties](#) showed schools that did not have mask requirements were 3.5 times more likely to experience COVID-19 outbreaks. There were 999 schools included in the analysis, where 191 school-associated outbreaks were recorded from July 15-Aug. 31.

- No requirement: 48 percent of schools had no mask requirement, and they accounted for 59.2 percent of all outbreaks.
- Late requirement: 31 percent of schools implemented a mask requirement a median of 15 days after school started, and they accounted for 32.5 percent of all outbreaks.
- Early requirement: 21 percent of schools had an early mask requirement, and they accounted for 8.4 percent of all outbreaks.



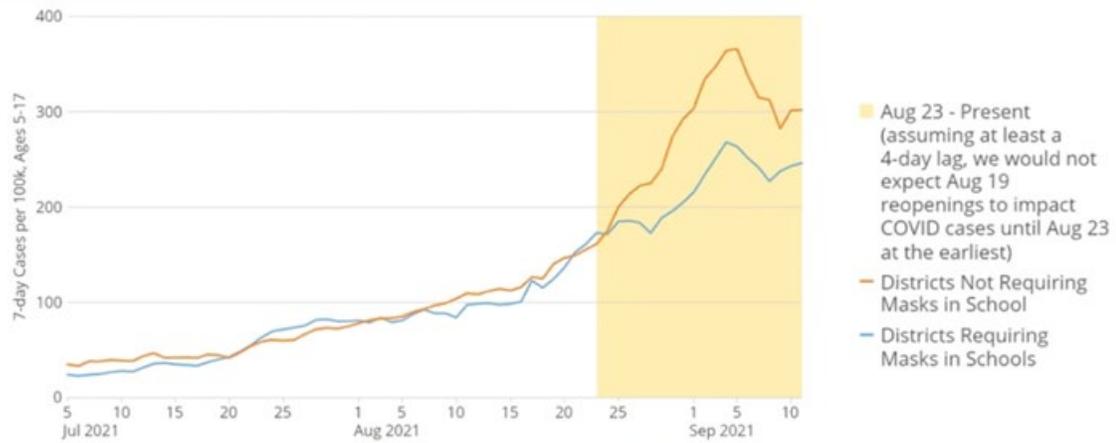
An second [analysis of pediatric cases by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) for counties where all school districts had mask requirements found those counties had a lower average change of pediatric cases (16.32 per 100,000/day) as compared to those counties where all schools did not have requirements (34.85 cases per 100,000/day).

The chart below compares the 520 counties included in the analysis from across the United States, where 198 had a mask requirement and 322 did not. The bars indicate the mean change in the daily number of COVID-19 pediatric cases per 100,000 people starting three weeks before the start of the school year to two weeks into the school year.



Colorado is experiencing similar trends between schools that have implemented mask requirements. The chart below is from 48 school districts in Colorado who either started the school with masks or without masks, and hadn't made changes since the start of the school year. Since the start of classes, represented by the shaded portion of the chart, those districts without mask requirements experienced higher disease activity than those who started the year with masks. While disease activity still increased in both scenarios, those with masks experienced a smaller increase.

Comparison of County School-Aged Case Rates for 48 Colorado School Districts That Started School August 16-19*



COLORADO
State Emergency
Operations Center



COLORADO
Department of Public
Health & Environment

Next steps for COVID-19 vaccines for ages 5-11

Pfizer-BioNTech announced on Sept. 20 that clinical trials showed strong protection for ages 5-11 of its COVID-19, and that it would submit the request to amend its existing emergency use authorization by the end of this month.

After the FDA receives the request, it will be reviewed and presented to the FDA's Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee. If the committee authorizes the vaccine, the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices will consider the clinical recommendations for the vaccine. Once the FDA and CDC committees review and authorize, in that order, will the vaccines be available for younger age groups.



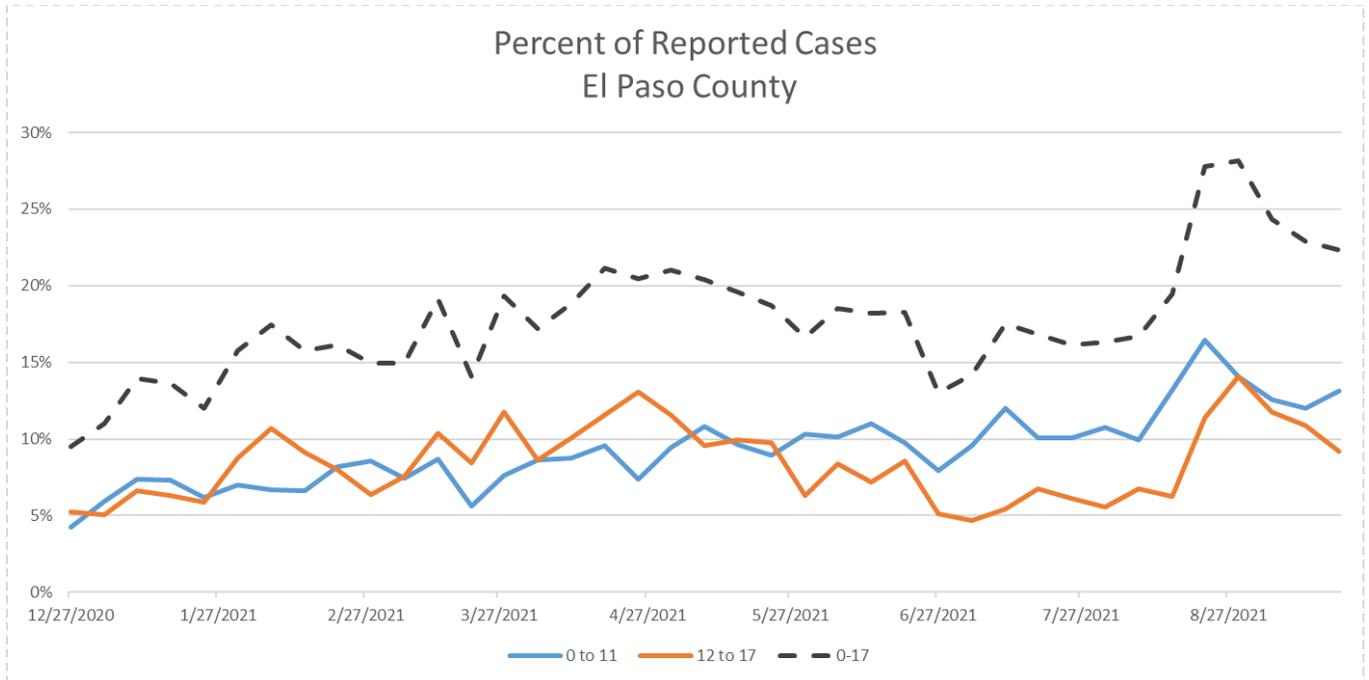
COVID-19 data and trends in El Paso County for all age groups

After a period of increase, El Paso County has been seeing a period of decline over the last week. The county's seven-day incidence is at 248.0 and the test positivity is at 8.68 percent as of Sept. 28. The decline in both the incidence and positivity is encouraging.

COVID-19 among children and youth in El Paso County

While children can contract COVID-19, the local rates of hospitalization remain much lower than other age groups. The percentage of cases among the 0-17-year-old age group has been decreasing since its peak on the week of 8/29/2021 which was the highest it's ever been, with approximately 28% of all cases occurring among the 0-17-year-old age group. The most recent full week, 9/19-9/25, the 0-17-year-old age group had a 22% of all cases.

The graph below shows the percentage of cases among different age groups: 0-11 (blue), 12-17 (orange) and 0-17 (dotted line).



As of Sept. 28, the 0-17 age group accounts for:

Metric	Since March 2020	Last 30 Days
Cases	13,068 of 89,861 total cases (14.5 percent)	2,189 of 9,004 total cases (24.3 percent)
Hospitalizations	162 of 4,636 total hospitalizations (3.5 percent)	28 of 419 total hospitalizations (6.7 percent)
Deaths	2 of 1,003 total deaths (0.02 percent)	0 of 54 total deaths (0 percent)

Outbreaks

Information on outbreaks is on El Paso County Public Health's [data dashboard](#) (page 7).

Vaccinations among youth ages 12 and older

As of Sept. 27:

- 44.8 percent of 12-17-year-olds in El Paso County have been vaccinated (received at least one dose)

Resources

El Paso County Public Health is providing access to recent credible research articles on our [website](#). This new resource will be updated weekly as articles are compiled and published.

Please see El Paso County Public Health's [data dashboard](#) for more information on local COVID-19 data and trends.

Mobile vaccinations are available as a convenient resource. If you are interested in hosting a mobile vaccination clinic at your school, business, or worksite, use this [online form](#).

Children's Hospital Colorado features [Bug Watch](#) on their website, which reports the presence and prevalence of selected infectious diseases in hospitalized and outpatient children throughout their system.