

# CHILDHOOD IMMUNIZATION DURING COVID-19

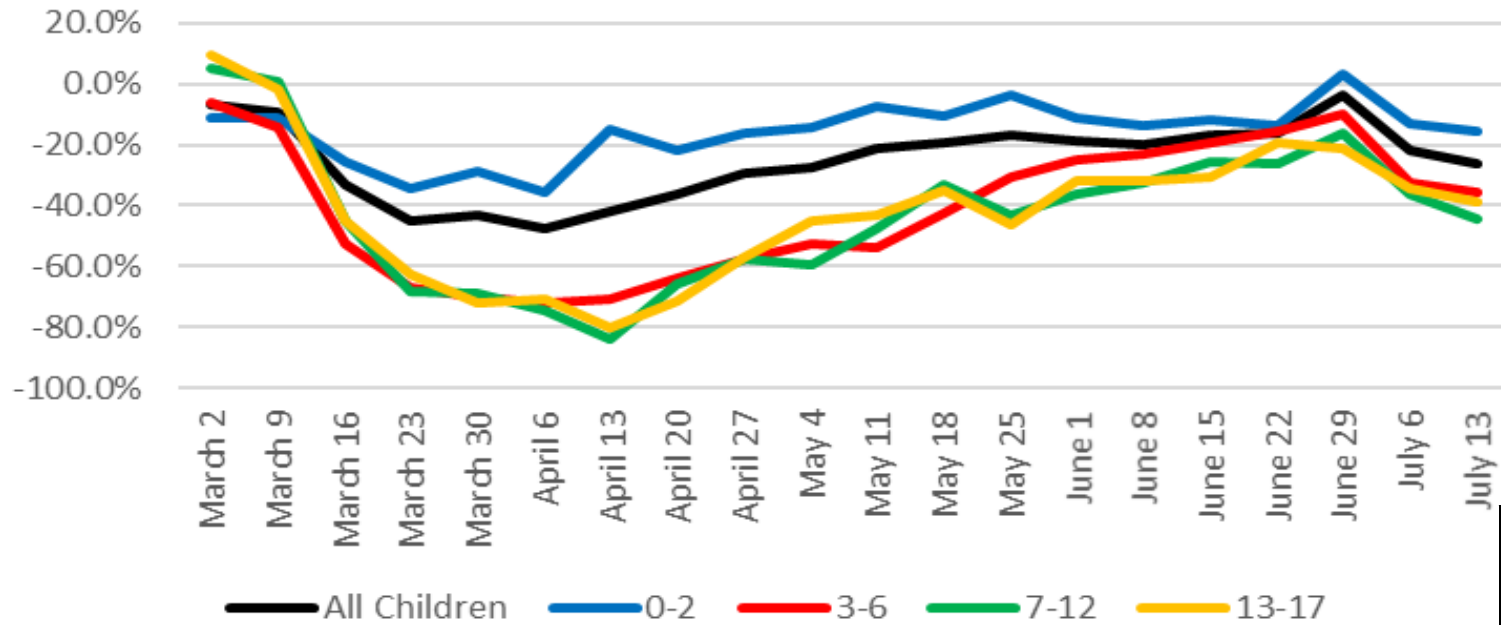
Heidi Parker, MA  
Executive Director, Immunize Nevada



# Overview

- Public health experts nationwide are concerned about downward immunization trends due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The National Immunization Survey-Child (NIS-Child) shows that immunization coverage disparities were largest for children who were uninsured, insured by Medicaid, or in low income households.
- Vaccines for Children program is a vital resource as households lose coverage during the pandemic. This program provides free vaccines to children who are Medicaid-eligible, uninsured, underinsured, or American Indian/Alaska Native.
- Until a COVID-19 vaccine becomes available for the public, the best things you can do for yourself, your family, and your community is continuing to practice disease prevention methods and getting vaccinated against flu.

## Percent Difference in Weekly Doses Administered 2019 and 2020



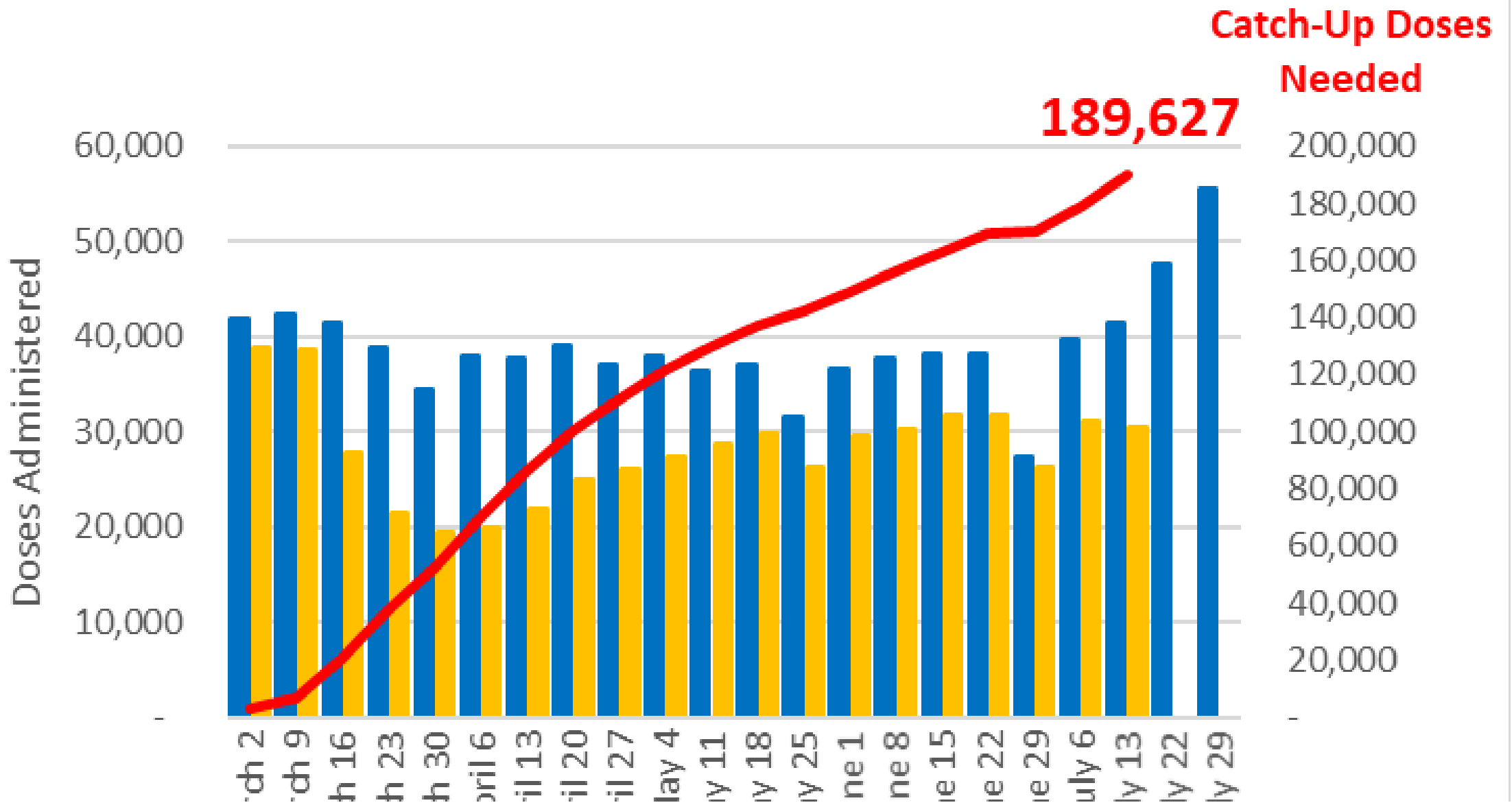
Age	Catch-up Doses Needed	% Difference 2019 and 2020
0-2	78,265	-16.1%
3-6	39,303	-41.6%
7-12	45,615	-42.6%
13-17	26,444	-40.9%

Adolescents aged 7 through 12 most severely impacted

➤ Down 42.9% from this time last year

Largest burden for catch-up doses is with infants

➤ 78,265 doses needed for catch up



# Well-Child Visits are Essential

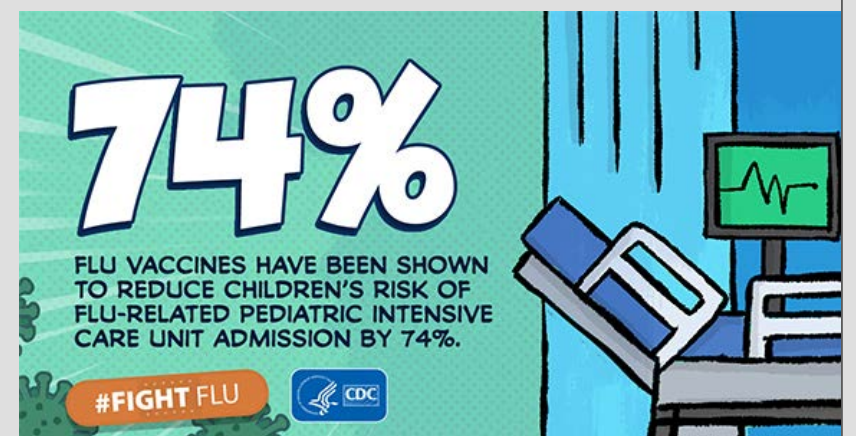
- As schools and daycares begin to reopen, protecting children against vaccine-preventable diseases is particularly important.
- Immunizations remain a vital component of pediatric and primary health care, even during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Many offices and clinics are taking extra steps to see children safely during this time, like:
  - Scheduling sick visits and well-child visits during different times of the day
  - Asking patients to remain outside until they are called into the facility to reduce crowding in waiting rooms
  - Offering sick visits and well-child visits in different locations
- These are challenging times, but **parents have the power to help keep their child(ren) healthy**. Staying on schedule for well-child visits and vaccines is one of the best things they can do to protect their child(ren) and community.

# Vaccinate with Confidence

- ***Protect Communities***
  - Vaccination rates remain strong nationally, but pockets of under-vaccination persist in some locations, putting communities at risk for outbreaks.
- ***Empower Families***
  - Trust in vaccines is not built through a top-down approach, but through millions of conversations between parents, doctors, nurses, pharmacists, and community members.
  - Start vaccine conversations earlier, with parents of very young infants and pregnant women
  - Reduce hesitancy and improve vaccine access at the nation's community health centers
- ***Stop Myths***
  - Improve confidence in vaccines among at-risk groups; establish partnerships to contain the spread of misinformation; and reach critical stakeholders to provide clear information about vaccination and the critical role it plays in protecting the public.

# COVID-19 and 2020-21 Flu Season

- We must come together as a community to ensure more people get immunized against influenza than ever before
- Flu + COVID-19 Task Force led by Immunize Nevada and Nevada State Immunization Program
- CDC messaging
- Expanded access to vaccine and community clinics
- Statewide media and outreach
- Mobile text program with Families Fighting Flu “ProtectNV”
- Online toolkits for various groups
- Community health workers



# COVID-19 Vaccine

- **Development**
  - Unprecedented collaboration between governments, regulatory authorities, and private industry has allowed for faster development without lowering safety standards.
  - More than 160 vaccine candidates; some starting Phase 3 clinical trials. (Las Vegas will have one)
- **Distribution**
  - Thoughtful and equitable allocation of COVID-19 vaccines will be critical to prevent morbidity and mortality and reduce the impact of COVID-19 on society
  - Distribution may be expanded to include additional health care organizations and vaccination providers who can provide pandemic vaccinations to targeted groups
- **Priority Groups**
  - Recommendations on groups to target will likely change throughout the response, depending on vaccine supply and disease epidemiology.
- **Stop Myths**
  - Improve confidence in vaccines among at-risk groups; establish partnerships to contain the spread of misinformation; and reach critical stakeholders to provide clear information about vaccination and the critical role it plays in protecting the public.



# Call to Action



IDENTIFY CHILDREN WHO  
HAVE MISSED WELL-CHILD  
VISITS AND/OR VACCINE  
APPOINTMENTS



SHARE RESOURCES AND  
INFORMATION ABOUT  
VACCINES FOR CHILDREN  
PROGRAM



PREPARE NOW FOR FLU  
SEASON



QUESTIONS?