

Responding to COVID-19

Statement of Problem

The cycles of significant COVID-19 community transmission over the past couple of years have presented extreme challenges to the health and well-being of children and families throughout the country. These obstacles include disruptions to education and access to health services, social isolation, experiences of loss, and much more.

While it's exciting that children ages 5 and older can receive the COVID-19 vaccine, families with young children who receive early care and education continue to face unique challenges, and K-12 schools are still in need of practical guidance focused on navigating the lingering health and social impacts associated with the virus.

Description

At PolicyLab, we are grateful for the work of community and advocacy partners, frontline health and service providers, policymakers, public health and education leaders, and research colleagues in keeping families safe and healthy since the start of the pandemic. While much work has been done, there remain many concerning and inequitable impacts for children and families, which we outline in [this blog post](#). Below you will find additional resources and materials that represent some of the timely, critical areas—such as behavioral health, health equity and school safety—we continue to work on.

Monitoring COVID-19 transmission

- [Forecasting COVID-19 Transmission Across Time in U.S. Counties](#)
 - [The Relationship Between State COVID-19 Vaccination Coverage and Adult Hospital Census in 200 Words](#)
 - [The Effectiveness of Government Masking Mandates On COVID-19 County-level Case Incidence Across the United States, 2020](#)
 - [How Effective are Mask Mandates at Stopping the Spread of COVID-19?](#)
-

Keeping schools safely open

- [Guidance for Updated COVID-19 School Mitigation Plans for Academic Year 2022-23](#)
 - [Assisting Childhood Education through Increased Testing: Project: ACE-IT](#)
 - [SARS-CoV-2 Infection in Public School District Employees Following a District-Wide Vaccination Program — Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania, March 21–April 23, 2021](#)
-

Achieving equitable health outcomes

- [Informing Pennsylvania's COVID-19 Health Equity Response](#)
- [Child Abuse Imaging and Findings in the Time of COVID-19](#)
- [The Future of Virtual Service Delivery: Lessons Learned from Research and Programmatic Experience](#)
- [Disparities in SARS-CoV-2 Positivity Among Pregnant Patients with Limited English Proficiency](#)
- [Modernizing WIC Enrollment to Improve Access to Healthy Food for Children and Families](#)
- [Addressing the Unique Needs of Immigrant and Limited-English-Proficient Communities During](#)

[the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)

Addressing lingering behavioral health effects

- [In Their Own Words: Child and Adolescent Perceptions of Caregiver Stress in Early COVID-19 Pandemic](#)
 - [Educators and Caregivers Need Better Tools to Support Youth with Eating Disorders](#)
 - [Exploring Innovative Research & Partnerships to Support School-based Mental Health Services](#)
 - [Addressing the Global Crisis of Child and Adolescent Mental Health](#)
 - [Supporting the Mental Health of LGBTQ+ Youth Following COVID-19's Impact](#)
 - [Social Distancing to Virtual Learning: Breaking Down COVID-19's Impact on Mental Health Across Youth Developmental Stages](#)
 - [Virtual Conversation: COVID-19—A Catalyst for Integrating Youth Behavioral Health Care Across Settings](#)
-

Ensuring the successful future of child care

- [The Child Care Crisis: Partnering with Health Care to Build a Stronger System](#)
 - [Policy Considerations to Ensure Accessible and Quality Child Care](#)
-

Investigating the rising rates of sexually transmitted infections among youth amid the pandemic

- [Reducing STIs Through Equitable Chlamydia Screenings in Pediatric Settings](#)
 - [How the COVID-19 Pandemic is Affecting Another Epidemic Among Teens: STDs](#)
-

Understanding the acceptability and feasibility of telehealth services

- [Acceptability of Telehealth for Gender-affirming Care in Transgender and Gender Diverse Youth and Their Caregivers](#)
 - [Acceptability, Feasibility and Quality of Telehealth for Adolescent Health Care Delivery During the COVID-19 Pandemic: Cross-sectional Study of Patient and Family Experiences](#)
 - [Telehealth's Impact on Teen Care During COVID-19 in 200 Words](#)
-

Preparing for the next pandemic

- [Senate HELP Committee Request for Information: Preparing for the Next Pandemic](#)
- [A Precision Public Health Approach to Preventing the Next COVID-19 Surge: It's Time to Talk about Surveillance](#)

Next Steps

PolicyLab will continue to work on addressing the impact of the pandemic on the children and families we serve, particularly issues related to health equity, ranging from adolescent behavioral health and sexual health, birth outcomes, social safety net program enrollment and disparities in access to telemedicine services. Through this work, PolicyLab will leverage its research, expertise, and experience distilling information for and engaging with policy audiences to advocate for policies and practices that will build a stronger, more supportive infrastructure for child and family health in the future as we recover from the pandemic.

This project page was last updated in August 2022.

Suggested Citation

Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, PolicyLab. *Responding to COVID-19* [Online]. Available at: <http://www.policylab.chop.edu>. [Accessed: plug in date accessed here].

PolicyLab Leads

Project Contact

Rebecka Rosenquist

ROSENQUISR@EMAIL.CHOP.EDU

Related Tools & Publications

- [COVID-19 Outlook: A Pivotal Moment in the U.S. Fight Against Coronavirus](#)
[Blog Post](#)
Jul 01, 2020
- [COVID-19 Outlook: Reconsidering a National Strategy](#)
[Blog Post](#)
Jul 08, 2020
- [COVID-19 Outlook: Mounting a Response Before It's Too Late](#)
[Blog Post](#)
Jul 15, 2020
- [Telehealth's Impact on Teen Care During COVID-19 in 200 Words](#)
[Blog Post](#)
Jul 16, 2020
- [Music Class Guidance During COVID-19 in 200 Words](#)
[Blog Post](#)
Jul 20, 2020
- [COVID-19 Outlook: Dominoes are Falling](#)
[Blog Post](#)
Jul 22, 2020
- [How We Validate Our COVID-19 Prediction Models](#)
[Blog Post](#)
Jul 24, 2020
- [COVID-19 Outlook: Shifting Winds and Inconsistent Signals](#)
[Blog Post](#)
Jul 29, 2020
- [COVID-19 Outlook: Regaining Control](#)
[Blog Post](#)
Aug 05, 2020
- [COVID-19 Outlook: Running Out of Time, And Out of Patience](#)
[Blog Post](#)
Aug 12, 2020

- [Preparing for Mental Health Needs of College Students Amid COVID-19](#)
[Blog Post](#)
Aug 18, 2020
- [COVID-19 Outlook: Finding a Narrow Path Forward for Schools](#)
[Blog Post](#)
Aug 20, 2020
- [COVID-19 Outlook: Buckle Up, The Ride is About to Get a Bit Bumpy](#)
[Blog Post](#)
Aug 26, 2020
- [The Tangled Issue of Masking Enforcement: What are States and Cities Trying?](#)
[Blog Post](#)
Aug 31, 2020
- [Broadband Internet Access, Education & Child Health: From Differences to Disparities, Part 1](#)
[Blog Post](#)
Sep 03, 2020
- [COVID-19 Outlook: The Labor Day Effects Have Begun, Colleges are Leading the Way](#)
[Blog Post](#)
Sep 02, 2020
- [COVID-19 Outlook: Finding Our Bearings After Labor Day](#)
[Blog Post](#)
Sep 09, 2020
- [COVID-19 and Systemic Racism Threaten the 2020 Census](#)
[Blog Post](#)
Oct 14, 2020
- [COVID-19 Outlook: The Window is Opening For More Safely Resuming In-school Instruction](#)
[Blog Post](#)
Sep 16, 2020
- [COVID-19 Outlook: In the Eye of the Hurricane](#)
[Blog Post](#)
Sep 23, 2020
- [Paid Leave: Will COVID-19 be a Catalyst for This Essential Policy?](#)
[Blog Post](#)
Sep 25, 2020
- [COVID-19 Outlook: Time to Preserve Our School Reopenings As a New Wave Moves In](#)
[Blog Post](#)
Sep 30, 2020
- [COVID-19 Outlook: The Northeast Resurgence Has Begun, but Safe School Reopenings Still Possible](#)
[Blog Post](#)
Oct 07, 2020
- [COVID-19 Outlook: A Second Wave to Blanket the Nation](#)
[Blog Post](#)
Oct 14, 2020

- [COVID-19 Outlook: The Fall Wave is Here, but its Outcome is Not Predetermined](#)
[Blog Post](#)
Oct 21, 2020
- [COVID-19 Outlook: Morning in America—Election Day to Unfold Amid Accelerating Resurgence](#)
[Blog Post](#)
Oct 28, 2020
- [Getting Kids Back to School in NYC](#)
[Blog Post](#)
Nov 03, 2020
- [COVID-19 Outlook: Rapid Spread with New Restrictions on the Horizon](#)
[Blog Post](#)
Nov 05, 2020
- [Safety of Child Care During COVID-19 in 200 Words](#)
[Blog Post](#)
Nov 10, 2020
- [COVID-19 Outlook: Preparing for the Holidays](#)
[Blog Post](#)
Nov 11, 2020
- [COVID-19 Outlook: Finding Safe Harbor, While Looking Forward](#)
[Blog Post](#)
Nov 18, 2020
- [COVID-19 Outlook: A Week of Travel and Uncertainty as a New Chapter Begins](#)
[Blog Post](#)
Nov 25, 2020
- [COVID-19 Outlook: Reemerging from the Holiday Weekend to Parse Signal from Noise](#)
[Blog Post](#)
Dec 02, 2020
- [COVID-19 Outlook: Getting Past Peak Proving More Difficult After Thanksgiving](#)
[Blog Post](#)
Dec 09, 2020
- [COVID-19 Outlook: Moving Past Peak During a Period of Fragile Equilibrium](#)
[Blog Post](#)
Dec 16, 2020
- [Rising Behavioral Health Needs Amid COVID-19: Perspectives Across Multiple Settings](#)
[Blog Post](#)
Dec 17, 2020
- [COVID-19 Outlook: Remaining Cautious About the Data Around the Holidays](#)
[Blog Post](#)
Dec 31, 2020
- [COVID-19 Outlook: Striking a Delicate Balance as We Enter the Holidays](#)
[Blog Post](#)
Dec 23, 2020

- [COVID-19 Outlook: Returning from the Holidays Beset with New Challenges, and New Solutions](#)
[Blog Post](#)
Jan 06, 2021
- [COVID-19 Outlook: At the Height of the Pandemic, A Race Against Time](#)
[Blog Post](#)
Jan 13, 2021
- [COVID-19 Outlook: Looking Ahead as a New Administration Takes the Helm](#)
[Blog Post](#)
Jan 20, 2021
- [What Can We Learn from Black & Brown Developing Nations' Responses to COVID-19?](#)
[Blog Post](#)
Jan 25, 2021
- [COVID-19 Outlook: Preparing for Spring](#)
[Blog Post](#)
Jan 27, 2021
- [COVID-19 Outlook: A Time to Follow the Data and Avoid Speculation](#)
[Blog Post](#)
Feb 03, 2021
- [COVID-19 Outlook: Regaining Our Footing with Continued Optimism](#)
[Blog Post](#)
Feb 10, 2021
- [COVID-19 Outlook: Spring Planning for In-person Schooling Can Continue](#)
[Blog Post](#)
Feb 17, 2021
- [COVID-19 Outlook: Returning to Normal, It's Closer Than You Think](#)
[Blog Post](#)
Feb 24, 2021
- [COVID-19 Outlook: Continued Vigilance is Needed as Spring Approaches](#)
[Blog Post](#)
Mar 03, 2021
- [Are Refugee Essential Workers at a Higher Risk of Contracting COVID-19?](#)
[Blog Post](#)
Mar 04, 2021
- [COVID-19 Outlook: Schools Spring Forward](#)
[Blog Post](#)
Mar 10, 2021
- [Growing Opportunities for COVID-19 Testing Programs in U.S. Schools](#)
[Blog Post](#)
Mar 16, 2021
- [COVID-19 Outlook: Stepping Up Safety During a Period of Uncertainty](#)
[Blog Post](#)
Mar 17, 2021

- [COVID-19 Outlook: Navigating School Reopenings During a Period of Sustained Community Transmission](#)
[Blog Post](#)
Mar 24, 2021
- [COVID-19 Outlook: Cautious Notes of Optimism During a Spring Resurgence](#)
[Blog Post](#)
Mar 31, 2021
- [STIs Among Youth During COVID-19 May Be the Tip of the Iceberg](#)
[Blog Post](#)
Apr 05, 2021
- [COVID-19 Outlook: As Resurgence Continues, Americans Are No Longer Distancing](#)
[Blog Post](#)
Apr 07, 2021
- [COVID-19 Outlook: Cautiously Optimistic a Turning Point is Near](#)
[Blog Post](#)
Apr 14, 2021
- [COVID-19 Outlook: Preparing to Vaccinate Children as Our Nation Reaches a Turning Point](#)
[Blog Post](#)
Apr 21, 2021
- [COVID-19 Outlook: Getting a Head Start on Fall Planning - School Quarantine Protocols](#)
[Blog Post](#)
Apr 28, 2021
- [The Impact of Paid Leave on School Functioning During COVID-19](#)
[Blog Post](#)
Apr 28, 2021
- [Pressing Issues Facing Children and Families: Reflections One Year into the Pandemic](#)
[Blog Post](#)
Apr 29, 2021
- [COVID-19 Outlook: Navigating the Final Leg of the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)
[Blog Post](#)
May 06, 2021
- [Q&A: Exploring COVID-19 Vaccine Hesitancy in Young Adults With Sickle Cell Disease](#)
[Blog Post](#)
May 10, 2021
- [COVID-19 Outlook: Lessons Learned from a Year of Modeling the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)
[Blog Post](#)
May 12, 2021
- [Social Distancing to Virtual Learning: Breaking Down COVID-19's Impact on Mental Health Across Youth Developmental Stages](#)
[Blog Post](#)
May 13, 2021
- [COVID-19 Outlook: Planning for Summer as Case Incidence Continues to Decline in the U.S.](#)
[Blog Post](#)

May 20, 2021

- [Providing Emotional Support for Immigrant Communities During COVID-19 in 200 Words](#)
[Blog Post](#)
Jun 10, 2021
- [Supporting the Mental Health of LGBTQ+ Youth Following COVID-19's Impact](#)
[Blog Post](#)
Jun 25, 2021
- [COVID-19 Outlook: A Summer Resurgence as Schools Plan for Fall](#)
[Blog Post](#)
Jul 20, 2021
- [How COVID-19 Highlighted the Need for Teen Mental Health Screening in 200 Words](#)
[Blog Post](#)
Jul 27, 2021
- [COVID-19 Outlook: The Uncertainty of What is to Come](#)
[Blog Post](#)
Aug 05, 2021
- [Lessons Learned From a Year of School Surveillance](#)
[Blog Post](#)
Aug 11, 2021
- [COVID-19 Outlook: Resurgence is on the Move as Schools Reopen](#)
[Blog Post](#)
Aug 19, 2021
- [Bright Spots to Support Back-to-School Health During COVID-19](#)
[Blog Post](#)
Aug 24, 2021
- [COVID-19 Outlook: A Country in Transition](#)
[Blog Post](#)
Aug 26, 2021
- [Innovative Strategies for a Successful Return to Campus in a Changing COVID-19 Landscape](#)
[Blog Post](#)
Aug 30, 2021
- [COVID-19 Outlook: An Especially Challenging Time for Schools](#)
[Blog Post](#)
Sep 02, 2021
- [The Impact of In-person Benefit Reloading on WIC Participation During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)
[Blog Post](#)
Sep 08, 2021
- [COVID-19 Outlook: 4 Trends Playing Out Across the Country](#)
[Blog Post](#)
Sep 09, 2021
- [COVID-19 Outlook: Post-Labor Day Impacts Emerge as the South Improves](#)

[Blog Post](#)

Sep 16, 2021

- [COVID-19 Outlook: A Nation Improves, But Challenges Re-emerge in Some Regions](#)
[Blog Post](#)
Sep 24, 2021
- [The Future of Virtual Service Delivery: Lessons Learned from Research and Programmatic Experience](#)
[Blog Post](#)
Sep 27, 2021
- [COVID-19 Outlook: Stabilizing Transmission in Northern Areas Provides New Optimism](#)
[Blog Post](#)
Sep 30, 2021
- [COVID-19 Outlook: We Haven't Yet Turned the Corner in the North](#)
[Blog Post](#)
Oct 08, 2021
- [COVID-19 Outlook: A Fall Resurgence of Uncertain Magnitude Develops as We Await Vaccines for Children](#)
[Blog Post](#)
Oct 14, 2021
- [COVID-19 Outlook: Looking North for Clues as Colder Weather Approaches](#)
[Blog Post](#)
Oct 21, 2021
- [COVID-19 Outlook: Seasonality in the Spotlight as an Inflection Point Arrives](#)
[Blog Post](#)
Nov 04, 2021
- [COVID-19 Outlook: Seasonal Transmission Arrives Before Holiday Season](#)
[Blog Post](#)
Nov 11, 2021
- [COVID-19 Outlook: Transmission Accelerates as Thanksgiving Arrives](#)
[Blog Post](#)
Nov 18, 2021
- [COVID-19 Outlook: Navigating Another Holiday Season of the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)
[Blog Post](#)
Dec 03, 2021
- [COVID-19 Outlook: Preparing for Recovery, Even as U.S. Approaches Peak Seasonal Transmission](#)
[Blog Post](#)
Dec 09, 2021
- [COVID-19 Outlook: Omicron Adds More Uncertainty to Winter COVID-19 Resurgence](#)
[Blog Post](#)
Dec 16, 2021
- [COVID-19 Outlook: A Pandemic in Transition Requires Updated School Guidance](#)
[Blog Post](#)
Jan 05, 2022

- [COVID-19 Outlook: Holiday Peaks Begin to Subside](#)
[Blog Post](#)
Jan 13, 2022
- [COVID-19 Outlook: Recovery from the Omicron Wave Has Started but Will Vary by Region](#)
[Blog Post](#)
Jan 21, 2022
- [COVID-19 Outlook: Recovery Continues, But Some Regions Lag Behind](#)
[Blog Post](#)
Jan 27, 2022
- [COVID-19 Outlook: As Recovery Continues, Schools Plan for Next Steps](#)
[Blog Post](#)
Feb 03, 2022
- [COVID-19 Outlook: Hastened Recovery Continues, Although Some Risk Remains](#)
[Blog Post](#)
Feb 17, 2022
- [COVID-19 Outlook: Tackling Unresolved Questions about Children as Recovery Continues](#)
[Blog Post](#)
Mar 22, 2022
- [COVID-19 Outlook: Forging Forward from the Pandemic](#)
[Blog Post](#)
Apr 22, 2022
- [COVID-19 Outlook: Schools Update Health and Safety Plans For the New Academic Year](#)
[Blog Post](#)
Aug 04, 2022
- [Policy Review: Literature to Inform COVID-19 Mitigation Following Community Reopening](#)
[Tools and Memos](#)
Jul 2020
- [FAQ: Reopening Doors to Child Care Safely](#)
[Tools and Memos](#)
Jul 2020
- [Policy Review: Addressing System Needs for Child Behavioral Health in the Context of the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)
[Tools and Memos](#)
Jul 2020
- [Key Takeaways from Pediatric Emergency Department Response to COVID-19](#)
[Tools and Memos](#)
Jul 2020
- [Ensuring Support Services for Youth With Disabilities & Special Health Care Needs Amid COVID-19](#)
[Webinars](#)
Jul 2020
- [Questions to Ask Your Child Care Provider: A Checklist for Parents, Guardians & Families](#)
[Tools and Memos](#)

Jul 2020

- [FAQ: Returning My Child to Child Care Tools and Memos](#)
Jul 2020
- [A Defining Moment for Pediatric Primary Care Telehealth Article](#)
Jul 2020
- [Association of Social Distancing, Population Density, and Temperature With the Instantaneous Reproduction Number of SARS-CoV-2 in Counties Across the United States Article](#)
Jul 2020
- [Returning to Youth Sports Webinars](#)
Jul 2020
- [FAQ: Support for Children with Special Educational Needs Amid COVID-19 Tools and Memos](#)
Aug 2020
- [COVID-19: A Catalyst for Integrating Youth Behavioral Health Care Across Settings Webinars](#)
Aug 2020
- [Revisiting Health Care System Data Priorities to Improve Population Health and Address Inequity Article](#)
Aug 2020
- [Implementing Group Parent Training in Telepsychology: Lessons Learned During the COVID-19 Pandemic Article](#)
Oct 2020
- [Supporting Immigrant Communities and Those with Limited English Proficiency During the Pandemic: Stakeholder Perspectives from Pennsylvania Tools and Memos](#)
Nov 2020
- [Evaluation of COVID-19 Testing Strategies for Repopulating College and University Campuses: A Decision Tree Analysis Article](#)
Nov 2020
- [Addressing the Unique Needs of Immigrant and Limited-English-Proficient Communities During the COVID-19 Pandemic Policy Briefs](#)
Feb 2021
- [On the Value of COVID-19 Testing for Children Beyond the Spring of 2021 Article](#)
Apr 2021
- [Assessing Child Abuse Hotline Inquiries in the Wake of COVID-19: Answering the Call](#)

- [Article](#)
May 2021
- [Tech Led Solutions to Address Food Insecurity during a Global Pandemic](#)
[Article](#)
May 2021
 - [COVID-19 and Adolescent Depression and Suicide Risk Screening Outcomes](#)
[Article](#)
Jun 2021
 - [SARS-CoV-2 Infection in Public School District Employees Following a District-Wide Vaccination Program — Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania, March 21–April 23, 2021](#)
[Article](#)
Jul 2021
 - [Yes, Children Can Transmit COVID, but We Need Not Fear](#)
[Article](#)
Aug 2021
 - [Association between Preferred Language and Risk of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 Infection in Children in the United States](#)
[Article](#)
Sep 2021
 - [COVID-19 and Routine Childhood Vaccinations-Identifying Gaps and Informing Solutions](#)
[Article](#)
Oct 2021
 - [Guidance for Updated COVID-19 School Mitigation Plans for Academic Year 2022-23](#)
[Tools and Memos](#)
Aug 2022
 - [The Effectiveness of Government Masking Mandates On COVID-19 County-level Case Incidence Across The United States, 2020](#)
[Article](#)
Feb 2022
 - [In Their Own Words: Child and Adolescent Perceptions of Caregiver Stress in Early COVID-19 Pandemic](#)
[Article](#)
Feb 2022
 - [The Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Sexually Transmitted Infection/Human Immunodeficiency Virus Testing Among Adolescents in a Large Pediatric Primary Care Network](#)
[Article](#)
Jul 2021
 - [U.S. Pediatric Emergency Department Visits for Mental Health Conditions During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)
[Article](#)
Apr 2022

Related Projects

[Forecasting COVID-19 Transmission Across Time in U.S. Counties](#)
[Population Health Sciences](#)

[Informing Pennsylvania's COVID-19 Health Equity Response](#)
[Health Equity](#)

[Assisting Childhood Education through Increased Testing](#)
[Population Health Sciences](#)