



Public Health Brief

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Parents, Children, School, and COVID Vaccine and Tests

We are “living in interesting times” as someone has said a long time ago. Influenza usually infects about 10% of the population in 16 weeks. Omicron has infected 40% of the US population in 8 weeks, and most of those have been in the last 3 weeks after the holidays. Alpine County is experiencing its highest levels since the beginning of this pandemic.

The Diamond Valley Elementary School being closed today adds to the stress in our community, and especially to parents and families of these children. The following is a link to an article about the challenges being faced by parents during this time of sustained stress:

<https://www.theatlantic.com/health/archive/2022/01/covid-parenting-challenges-stress/621322/>

YOU have the tools to influence what happens in our community in the days to come:

VACCINE: For all adults 18 years of age and older, and for all children 5-11 years of age, we have vaccine available in Woodfords at the Health Department. Call 530-694-2146, Option 1. For folks in Bear Valley, check with pharmacies down the hill. Vaccine for all ages 5 and up is also available in Douglas County – go to:

<https://gethealthycarsoncity.org/novel-coronavirus-2019/covid-19-vaccine/>

TESTS: The Health Department now has testing supplies available for all 2 years of age and up. Please call us at 530-694-2146 Option 1, and we will provide the appropriate type of testing for you.

MASKS: Consider upgrading to an N95 or KN95 respirator, available at pharmacies, retail outlets, and on-line. Be sure it is NIOSH certified. Go to: [Use Masks to Slow the Spread of COVID-19 \(cdc.gov\)](https://www.cdc.gov/covid19/masks/)

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Public Health

Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Alpine County Health Department, 75-B Diamond Valley Rd., Markleeville, CA 96120

Alpine County Board of Supervisors, Phone: (530) 694-2281

District 1: January Riddle, District 2: Ron Hames, District 3: Irvin Jim,

District 4: Terry Woodrow, District 5: David Griffith

MAKE NO MISTAKE COVID-19 IS A CHILDHOOD ILLNESS



COVID-19 CAN BE SERIOUS FOR KIDS.



**4X MORE DEATHS
THAN FLU**

**800
DEATHS**

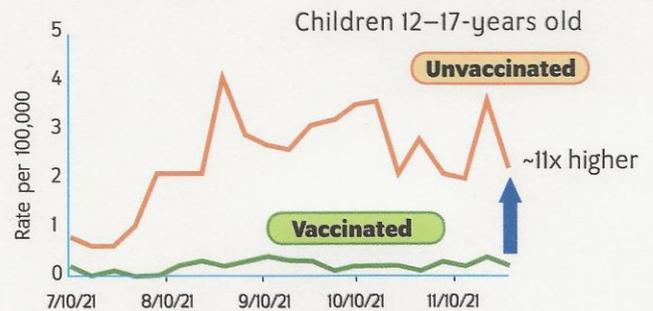
Over 800 children have died from COVID-19 in the US, compared to approximately 200 pediatric flu deaths over the past two years.

**8,300
HOSPITALIZATIONS**

About 1 in 3 children hospitalized with COVID-19 in the US were admitted to the ICU, similar to the rate among adults.

11X HIGHER RISK OF HOSPITALIZATION

COVID-19 associated hospitalizations in unvaccinated children are 11x higher than fully vaccinated.



PEDIATRIC VACCINATION COVERAGE IS LOW, ESPECIALLY FOR CALIFORNIA'S MOST VULNERABLE CHILDREN

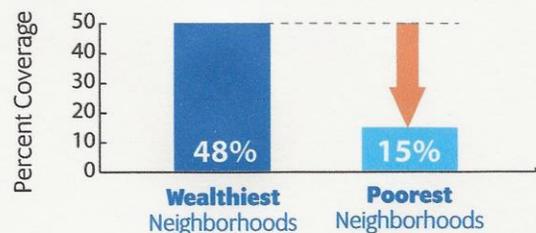
**75% OF KIDS !
NOT VACCINATED !**

3 out of 4 California children ages 5-11 years have yet to receive 1 dose of COVID-19 vaccine, leaving most children vulnerable as the omicron variant is surging and future variants are likely to follow.



POOREST NEIGHBORHOODS ARE FAR BEHIND

Only about 15% of children in California's poorest neighborhoods are vaccinated against COVID-19 compared to 48% in wealthiest neighborhoods.



Children, ages 5-11 (as of January 1, 2022)

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