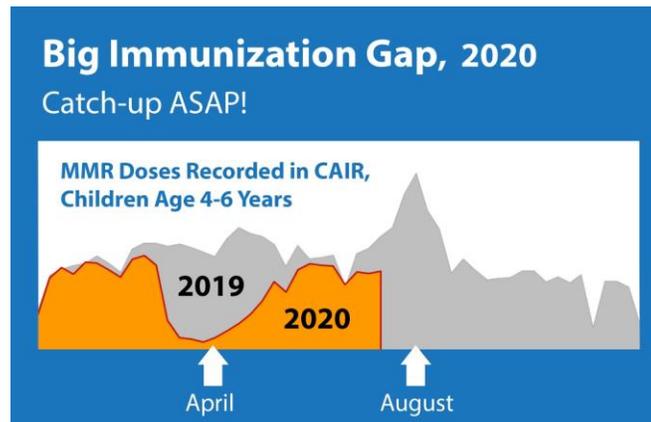


# Keeping Children Safe and Ready for School



CDC Guidance on vaccinations during pandemic <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pandemic-guidance/index.html>

## Keeping California Children Safe and Ready for School

The California Department of Public Health is closely following the rate of immunization during the pandemic. Immunization requirements for admission to school or child care in California for the 2020-2021 school year remain in place for now. Any updates will be posted on the [ShotsForSchool.org](http://ShotsForSchool.org) website. Please share this information widely with your colleagues.

### Key Points

- Currently, there are no changes to California's school vaccination requirements. Families can stay up to date on school requirements and learn what the current rules are by going to [www.ShotsForSchool.org](http://www.ShotsForSchool.org)
- Students who are receiving their education through distance learning model, are still subject to state laws for required immunizations.
- We want children to be protected from preventable diseases and ready for school – no matter where or when they are attending school.
- Even if your child is receiving instruction at home at this time, when schools resume for in person instruction your child will need to be up to date of immunizations to return to school- be prepared!
- Physicians and other healthcare providers vaccinate children to protect them from diseases. While vaccinations are required for school entry, healthcare providers vaccinate children and adolescents based on scientific guidelines and recommendations to protect them from preventable diseases – not just because they are required by state law.
- While school may be attended from home for safety during the pandemic, children and families do leave home and venture out in the community for a variety of reasons. Protection against vaccine preventable diseases is always important, especially to avoid another preventable outbreak during the COVID-19 pandemic.

## Keeping Children Safe and Ready for School



- Healthcare providers are working hard to get children up to date on immunizations, not just for school but to prevent diseases such as measles, pertussis and influenza.
- During the months of April and May in 2020, immunization rates among children and adolescents have dropped by over 50%. These gaps have left our communities vulnerable to the resurgence of diseases.
- We need to make sure children and adolescents stay up to date on their immunizations so they do not fall further behind on recommended vaccinations.
- If children and adolescents continue to fall behind on their recommended and required immunizations, we will have a larger than ever gap in vaccinations when students return to school in person.

For additional information, go to the Shots for School [www.ShotsForSchool.org](http://www.ShotsForSchool.org) website.

The **#DontWaitVaccinate** Campaign is a campaign to help health care professionals, health plans, public health information officers, immunization program managers, coalitions, school administrators, advocates and partner organizations work together to support providers and urge patients to keep and schedule routine checkups and immunization visits.

Toolkit and media messages and images can be found at [www.immunizeca.org/dontwaitvaccinate](http://www.immunizeca.org/dontwaitvaccinate).