

# What do CDC data tell us about the COVID-19 pandemic's effects on **Routine Childhood Vaccination?**

After the COVID-19 pandemic started, we saw a concerning drop in childhood routine vaccinations. Provider vaccine orders for children through the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program decreased by 14% in 2020 after the national COVID-19 public health emergency was declared.

## SIGNS OF IMPROVEMENT

Childhood vaccine orders through the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program and administration have steadily rebounded. As of January 2023, childhood VFC vaccine orders are within 1% or exceed pre-pandemic levels.



Vaccination coverage has remained high and stable overall among young children, with coverage of more than **9 in 10** children for most recommended vaccines nationally

## IMPROVEMENT NEEDED

Vaccination coverage among certain groups declined since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic and may have not yet recovered.

Combined 7-vaccine series coverage by age 24 months fell 4-5% among children living below poverty or in rural areas.

**4 - 5%**  
point drop



**Kindergarten vaccination** coverage has steadily declined for all vaccines and in a majority of states over the past 2 school years to lowest levels in a decade.

At least **1/4 Million** children that entered kindergarten during the pandemic are potentially susceptible to vaccine preventable disease.

Disparities in vaccination coverage by race/ethnicity, income, and insurance status that existed prior to the pandemic persisted in 2021 but did not worsen during the pandemic. However disparities worsened for young children living in rural areas.

## IMMEDIATE ACTION NEEDED

**We must act now to catch up children who delayed or missed getting routine vaccinations during the COVID-19 pandemic.**

Getting routine immunizations back on track is a goal that we can achieve by working together to reduce barriers, increase access, and strengthen vaccine confidence.



Routine Immunizations on Schedule for Everyone | 2022 Data Review

[www.cdc.gov/vaccines/partners/routine-immunizations-lets-rise.html](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/partners/routine-immunizations-lets-rise.html)  
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