

## CDC Studies: Child COVID-19 Hospitalizations Skyrocket

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COVID-19 hospitalizations among children and adolescents are significantly higher in communities with low vaccination rates, according to two new CDC studies.

The studies, which are slated for publication Friday, provide data that highlight the importance of getting vaccinated, said CDC Director Rochelle P. Walensky, MD.

"Both studies show one thing is clear: cases, emergency room visits, and hospitalizations are much lower among children and communities with higher vaccination rates," Walensky said at a Thursday briefing.

Researchers analyzed July data from hospitals in 99 counties across 14 states, which revealed that **hospital rates among unvaccinated adolescents ages 12-17 were nearly 10 times higher** than those who were fully vaccinated.

A second study found that August hospitalization rates for children and adolescents were nearly four times higher than they were for vaccinated people from the same age group.

"As a mother of three and as a physician, I deeply care about keeping our children safe at home and at school," Walensky said.

As the Delta variant continued to spread throughout the summer, cases among children and adolescents **increased by nearly 10-fold**, she reported.

The seven-day average of daily cases has increased to 149,000, with hospitalizations reaching 12,000 per day. Daily deaths have reached 953.

However, vaccination rates continue to increase. About 175 million U.S. residents have been fully vaccinated, up from 10 million just a month ago, the White House COVID-19 team reported.

Daily rates are hovering around one million per day, and first doses comprise half of those, Walensky said. Though the full FDA approval of Pfizer's two-dose vaccine "has definitely had some impact," she said, it is difficult to know what has accounted for that increase.

Walensky said the new data **underscores the importance of protective measures, including masking and distancing, particularly for children attending school.**

## **The mother of a college student who died 'screaming through the mask' wished she had made her get the COVID-19 vaccine**

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The regretful mother of an unvaccinated college student from Texas who died of COVID-19 last month said she should have "forced" her daughter to get the jab, [according to FOX 4](#).

Breanna Gray was set to become a freshman at Navarro College in September but fell ill on July 31 and was hospitalized a week later.

The 19-year-old had no underlying health conditions and had decided not to take a [COVID-19 vaccine](#). Two weeks after the Texas teen was admitted to the hospital, her condition worsened and soon after, she was told by doctors she had to be put on a ventilator.

Her mother, Tabitha Gray, told FOX 4 that the last time she spoke to her daughter, she tried to calm her down over the phone.

"You just hear her screaming through the mask for me, and that was the last time," Tabitha said, according to FOX 4. "And the last voice I heard is her yelling for me in her mask."

"For me, not being there to help my baby or be there is the worst feeling in the entire world," Tabitha added.

Gray's entire household was unvaccinated, which led to all of them contracting the virus at around the same time. However, only the teen ended up in the hospital.

The teen had sent pictures of herself in the hospital bed, hoping she would survive. She died on August 19.

Gray's mother said that societal pressure from nearby friends and family influenced their decision to remain unvaccinated.

"I feel like it's my fault," Tabitha said, according to FOX 4. "I should've forced it."

"I shouldn't have let other people in my head or life get to me," Tabitha said. "I should've done what I needed to do to protect my family."

Gray was described as "the light in the room everywhere she went on a memorial website." Her dream was to own a beauty salon after college.

Since Breanna's death, Gray's family have received their first COVID-19 vaccine and are booked in for their second appointment later this month.

More than 174.6 million Americans – 52.6% of the population – have been fully vaccinated, [according to the CDC](#).