THE PANDEMIC IMPACT
on Wellness Visits and Vaccinations for Children and Adolescents

Provided as an educational resource by Merck.
THE TIME TO ACT IS NOW: Numerous reports have documented a marked drop in vaccination and prevention services during the pandemic.¹

**2020-2021 US national wellness visits cumulative change vs 2017-2019 three year average, for the same time period²**

All age cohorts have seen a decrease in wellness visits during the COVID-19 pandemic, with adolescent age cohorts most impacted.²

WELLNESS VISITS ARE ESSENTIAL for many reasons, including getting recommended routine vaccinations for children and adolescents.³,⁴

Data Sources: HealthVerity COVID-19 Surveillance and Utilization Syndicated Weekly Offering, 2020-2021; Optum’s Insight Clininformatics Data Mart, 2017-2019.²

COMMUNITY MITIGATION MEASURES such as shelter-in-place orders resulted in declines in outpatient pediatric visits and fewer vaccine doses administered during the COVID-19 pandemic, leaving children and adolescents at risk for vaccine-preventable diseases.\(^1,2\)

As a result of the recent declines in the routine vaccination rates, the CDC has released guidance stating that recommended routine vaccinations are an **ESSENTIAL PREVENTIVE HEALTH SERVICE** that should be maintained.\(^4-6\)

Data Sources: HealthVerity COVID-19 Surveillance and Utilization Syndicated Weekly Offering, 2020-2021; Optum’s Insight Clininformatics Data Mart, 2017-2019.\(^3\)

THERE IS URGENCY to vaccinate adolescents now; significant catch-up is needed, and recovery may be further complicated by pandemic response activities.1-3

As pandemic response activities could be expected to introduce greater complexity into recovery efforts during the 2021 back-to-school season, these are a few points to consider5,6:

- Summertime is a peak time period for adolescents to complete wellness visits where preventative services, like the administration of recommended vaccinations, are addressed before or at the start of the school year.4,6,7
- As younger populations become eligible to receive COVID-19 vaccines, thoughtful planning is essential to ensure they receive their routinely recommended and catch-up vaccinations.5,7
- Currently there are no data or recommendations to support concomitant use of COVID-19 vaccine with other vaccines.5

Data Sources: HealthVerity COVID-19 Surveillance and Utilization Syndicated Weekly Offering, 2020-2021; Optum’s Insight Clinformatics Data Mart, 2017-2019.4

THE TIME TO ACT IS NOW

Now is the time to ensure children and adolescents receive their routinely recommended vaccinations.1

The following are solutions that may support increased awareness, access, and uptake of routinely recommended vaccines:

1. Ensure that providers use every OPPORTUNITY TO VACCINATE2,3

2. Ensure recommended office safety measures and appointment availability are CLEARLY COMMUNICATED3

3. IDENTIFY APPROPRIATE PATIENTS and utilize patient outreach programs through centralized Reminder Recall4

4. RAISE AWARENESS by incorporating digital and mainstream media campaigns as part of outreach programs5,6

5. Consider alternate VACCINATION OPPORTUNITIES, such as curbside clinics or “drive-through” appointments3