

Routine Pediatric Vaccination during the COVID-19 Pandemic, U.S.

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Viral Hepatitis Prevention Board Meeting

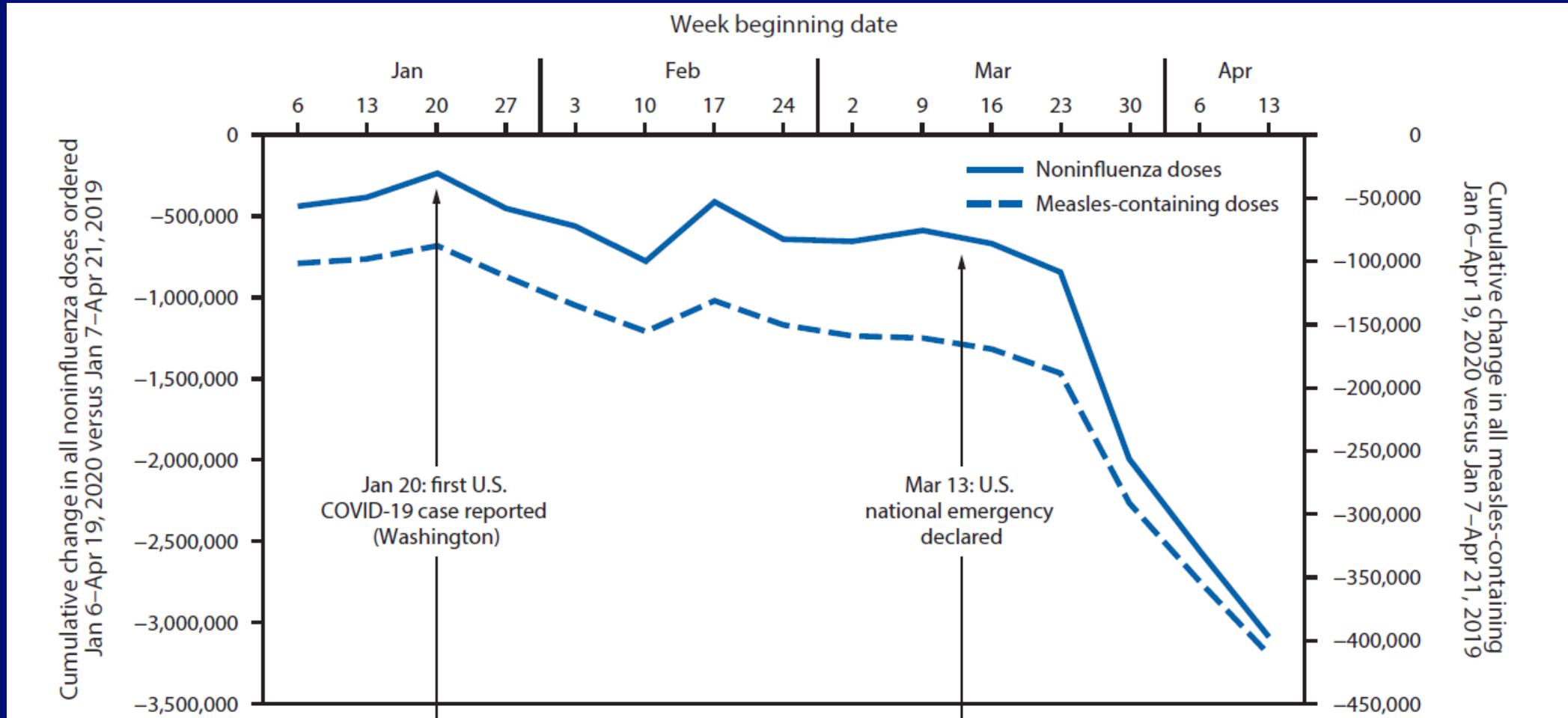
March 18, 2021



Disclaimer

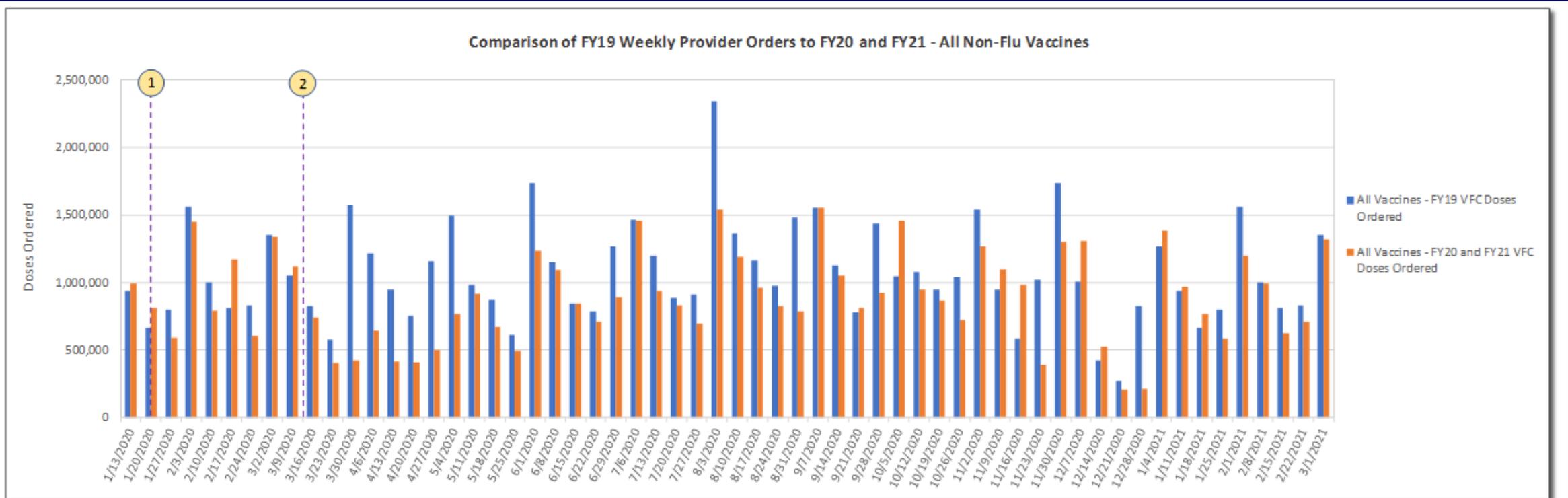
The findings and conclusions in this presentation are those of the presenter and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Weekly changes in Vaccines for Children (VFC) program provider orders for pediatric vaccines – United States, January 6-April 19, 2020



* VFC data represent the difference in cumulative doses of VFC-funded noninfluenza and measles-containing vaccines ordered by health care providers at weekly intervals between Jan 7-Apr 21, 2019, and Jan 6-Apr 19, 2020.

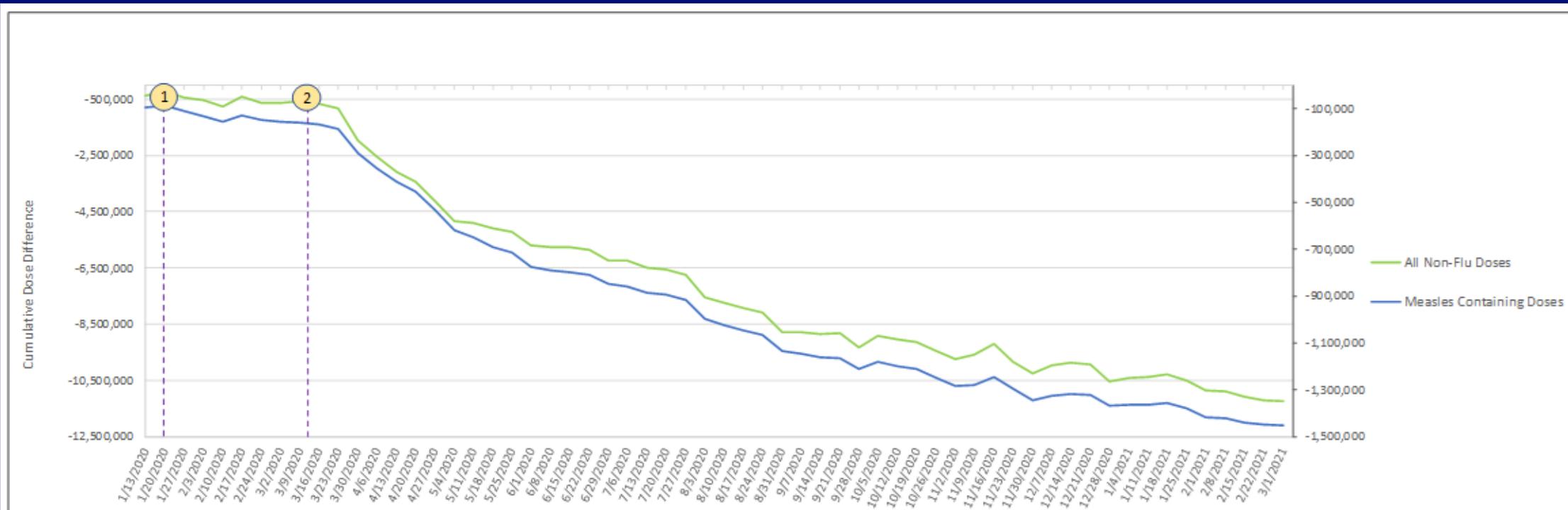
VFC provider orders have rebounded..



Notable Dates:

- 1 1/20/2020: First US case reported (Washington state)
- 2 3/13/2020: US national emergency declared

...but there still is a substantial deficit for 2020-2021



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As of March 1, overall VFC provider orders (other than flu) are down by **~10.5M doses** and MMR/MMRV down by **~1.5M doses**

Current status of pediatric vaccination recovery

- **Cumulative VFC vaccine doses (VTrckS) comparing FY19 to Oct 2019-Mar 2021**
 - Total non-flu: 14% lower
 - Measles-containing: 21% lower
 - HPV: 21% lower
 - Tdap: 21% lower
 - MCV4: 17% lower
 - Hep A: 19% lower
 - Hep B: 16% lower
 - Dtap: 10% lower
 - Rotavirus: 6% lower
- **VTrckS data show general indication that the recovery is heading in the right direction, though there is much catch-up vaccination needed**

A May 2020 survey about pediatric immunization services

- **A survey of 1,933 practices participating in the Vaccines for Children program**
 - 1,727 (89.8%) reported currently being open
 - 1,397 (81.1%) offered immunization services to all pediatric patients
 - Prioritization of younger children
 - 1,135 (59.1%) were likely able to provide immunization services to new pediatric patients if necessary

Vogt TM, Zhang F, Banks M, et al. Provision of Pediatric Immunization Services During the COVID-19 Pandemic: an Assessment of Capacity Among Pediatric Immunization Providers Participating in the Vaccines for Children Program — United States, May 2020. *MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep* 2020;69:859–863. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm6927a2>

Possible barriers impacting full recovery of childhood vaccination

- **Inadequate communications/outreach to parents**
 - Reminder/recall about vaccines and well child visits
 - Communications about vaccine & well child schedules, VFC and Medicaid eligibility and enrollment procedures, COVID-19 precautions & actual risks in provider offices
- **Parent-originating barriers**
 - Fear of catching COVID-19
 - Financial concerns/loss of Medical insurance
 - Practical barriers like taking time off work/securing childcare
- **Reduced access to vaccination services**
 - HCP offices (including LHDs) closed/reduced appointments/not offering vaccine/not accepting Medicaid
- **Possibly inadequate enforcement of school entry requirements due to virtual school or COVID-19-related disruptions**

February – March 2021 Follow-up VFC provider survey

- **Follow-up survey among VFC providers to understand continuing impact of the pandemic and to assess activities to increase demand for vaccines**
- **Questions included**
 - Provider office operational status
 - Offering of immunization services
 - Walk-in vaccination visits
 - Expanded hours for vaccination visits
 - Special vaccination clinics
 - Communication with parents (including methods)
 - Importance of well-child visits
 - Reminders about well-child visits/vaccines due or overdue
 - Measures in place to limit risk of exposure to SARS-CoV-2
 - Capacity to serve additional patients
- **Associations of activities to increase demand on provider-level vaccine ordering**

Call to Action: Urgent Need for Catch Up Vaccination (1)

- **Healthcare systems and healthcare providers can:**
 - Identify families whose children have missed doses and contact them to schedule appointments
 - Prompt clinicians when these children are seen to deliver vaccines that are due or overdue
 - Let families know what precautions are in place for safe delivery of in-person services
- **Healthcare provider organizations can:**
 - Encourage members to identify and follow up with families whose children have missed doses to get appointments scheduled

Call to Action: Urgent Need for Catch Up Vaccination (2)

- **State government agencies can:**

- Send reminders to families about school immunization requirements
- Implement follow-up for children who are not in compliance with requirements to encourage compliance
- Use the state's immunization information system's reminder-recall capacity to notify families whose children have fallen behind on vaccines

- **We all can:**

- Communicate directly to families the importance of well-child visits and getting caught up on any recommended vaccines that were missed

Resources for communicating with parents about routine vaccination during the COVID-19 pandemic

The screenshot shows the CDC website page for immunization partners. The main heading is "Resources for Encouraging Vaccinations During COVID-19 Pandemic". Below the heading is a "Background" section with a paragraph about an MMWR report from May 2020. There is also a "Web Feature – Well-Child Visits are Essential" section and a "Social Media Content" section with links for Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram messages. A sidebar on the left lists various resources like "Vaccinate with Confidence", "Childhood Immunization Resources", and "Observances and Toolkits".

CDC resources for parents and immunization partners

The screenshot shows the CDC website page for parents about routine vaccination. The main heading is "Routine Vaccination During the COVID-19 Outbreak". Below the heading is a paragraph about a CDC report from May 2020. There is also a "Well-Child Visits and Vaccinations Are Essential Services" section and a "Going to Medical Offices During the COVID-19 Outbreak" section with a list of tips. A sidebar on the left lists various resources like "Why Vaccinate", "Vaccine Schedule", and "Your Child's Vaccine Visit".

The screenshot shows a tweet from Amer Acad Pediatrics (@AmerAcadPeds). The text of the tweet says: "Dear parents: We'll take 'em off your hands for 20 minutes. Love, Your pediatrician #CallYourPediatrician". Below the text is a video showing a young child sitting on the floor, surrounded by many small yellow objects, possibly representing a child being held by a parent during a vaccination appointment.

AAP's #CallYourPediatrician campaign

www.cdc.gov/vaccines/routine
www.cdc.gov/vaccines/partners/childhood/stayingontrack.html
www.aap.org/en-us/about-the-aap/aap-press-room/campaigns/call-your-pediatrician

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