Ask-the-Expert: COVID-19 & Vaccines

COVID-19 and children with DM
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COVID-19 and children with DM

• Please discuss COVID-19 and children.
• What do we know about the effect of COVID-19 on children with DM specifically?
• What are the best ways for children with DM to remain safe from COVID-19?
• How can parents think about the risks for their children during the pandemic? (e.g., masking, vaccines, school, in-person fun/activities, being around other children, etc.)
Please discuss COVID-19 and children

- Less severe disease than in adults
- Short lasting
- Successful recovery
- Exceptions:
  - Patients with severe underlying chronic disease
    - Immunodeficiency, severe chronic lung disease, severe multi-organ system disease
  - MISC – Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children
What do we know about the effect of COVID-19 on children with DM specifically?

• Not much
• Not many patients with DM or any other neuromuscular condition are hospitalized with SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19)
• Patients the DM and at risk of challenges from having a respiratory virus already have an aggressive acute treatment plan
• Treat the same as any other acute respiratory illness
What are the best ways for children with DM to remain safe from COVID-19?

• Vaccination
• Social distancing
• Masking when in an indoor area with people with unknown SARS-CoV-2 status
• Be honest about your own symptoms
  • “asymptomatic carrier”??
• Aggressive in managing increased respiratory symptoms as with any acute respiratory illness
How can parents think about the risks for their children during the pandemic?

• Manage vs. Eliminate Risk
  • Manage – take reasonable precautions and enjoy life
  • Eliminate – isolate from social interaction

• Reasonable precautions
  • Mask Free
    • Outdoor interactions
    • Indoor Vaccinated / Tested
  • Masked
    • Indoor interactions uncertain status
    • Crowded environments
Questions
For Dr. Mayer about children and COVID-19.