

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 with 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.

