

# Maine Pre-K-12 Safe Return to School Update

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# Agenda

- Maine's current COVID-19 landscape and response, and considerations for the coming school year
- U.S. CDC Guidance for PreK-12 schools and recommendations
- Pooled PCR Testing Program available to all PreK-12 schools
- Youth and Staff COVID-19 Vaccination Rates
- DOE Public Health Response Team

# COVID-19 Data in Maine: Positivity Rates

## New Daily Positive Tests and Positivity Rate

Gray line shows positive Antigen and Molecular tests as a percent of total Antigen and Molecular tests

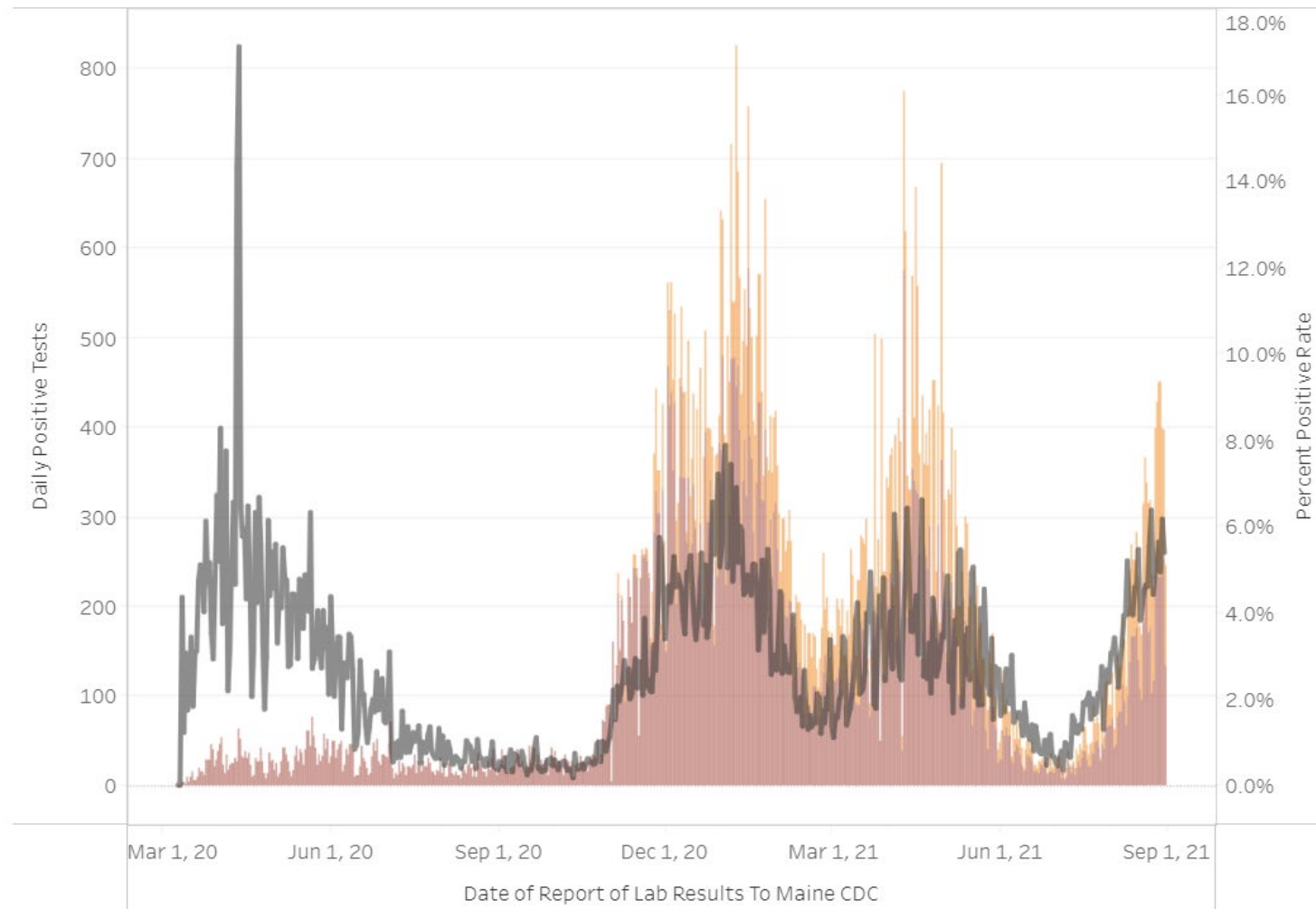
Select Test Type

Antigen and Molecular

Positive Tests

Antigen

Molecular



# COVID-19 Data in Maine by Age

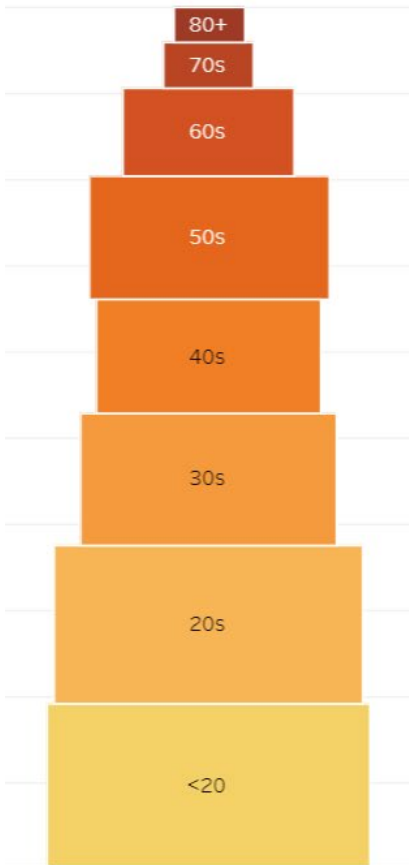
## Share of Cases by age

Data as of: August 29, 2021 11:59 pm

Dashboard updated: August 30, 2021

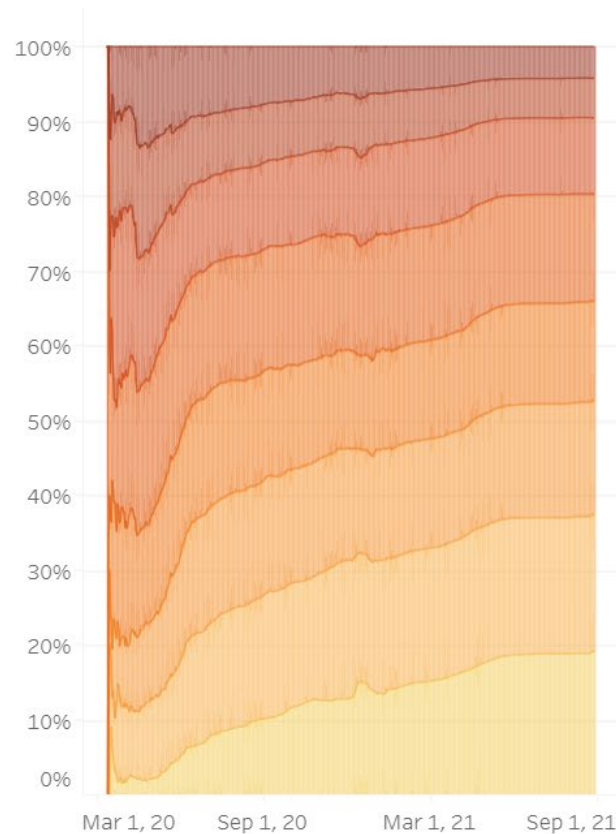
Cases / Deaths

Cases



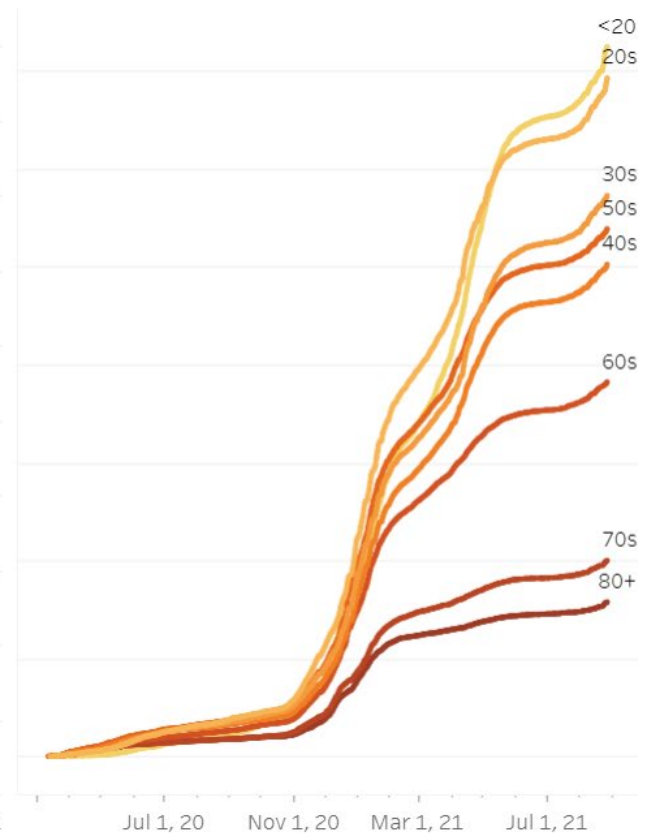
## Share of Cases by age, by day

Click an age band to highlight timeline



## COVID-19 Cases by age

Cumulative cases



← Undo → Redo ↶ Revert 🔄 Refresh ⏸ Pause

📊 Metrics 🔗 Share 📄 Download 🖥 Full Screen

# COVID-19 Data and Youth Age <25

COVID-19 and Youth in Maine: Data as of August 10, 2021

Total Number of Confirmed and Probable COVID-19 Cases Among Youth and Young Adults Age < 25:

21,254

Total Number of Confirmed and Probable COVID-19 Cases Among Mainers of All Age Groups:

72,286

Total Number of Cases by Age Group

0-4	2,049
5-9	2,685
10-14	3,359
15-19	5,778
20-24	7,383
25+	51,032

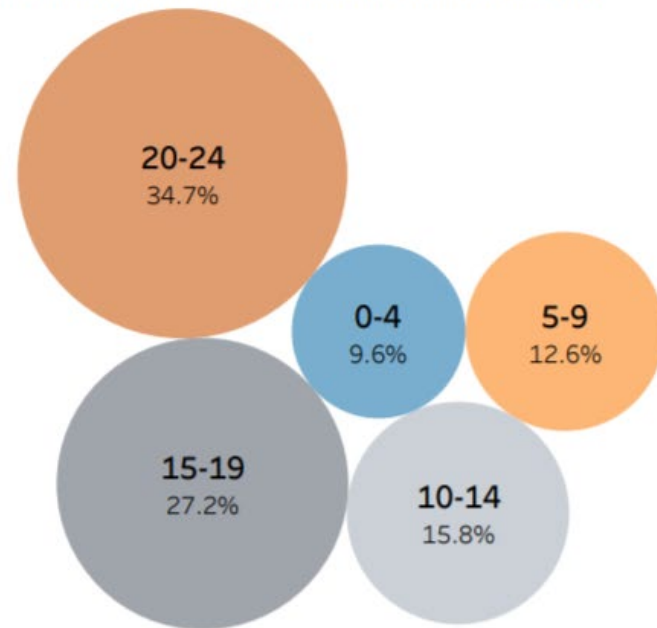
Percent of Total Cases Age < 25:

29.4%

Percent of Total Cases Age ≤ 18:

17.1%

Percent of Total Confirmed and Probable Youth Cases by Age Group



Caption

Age group and % of Total Count of COVID-19 cases. Color shows details about age group. Size shows % of Total Count of COVID-19 cases. The marks are labeled by age group and % of Total Count of COVID-19 cases. The view is filtered on age group, which excludes 25+.

Total Number of Hospitalizations Under Age 25:

50

Age Breakdown of Hospitalized Youth Cases:

0-4	24.0%
5-9	6.0%
10-14	4.0%
15-19	32.0%
20-24	34.0%

Source: Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention NEDSS Base System (NBS)\*

\*These are preliminary data that are subject to change.

# Maine CDC Response to U.S. CDC Guidelines for K-12 Schools

- U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)'s [has issued new recommendations](#) on **universal masking** in schools to help students and staff safely gather in person and in classrooms amid the nationwide increase of the Delta variant.
- All people on public or private **school-provided transport**, including buses and vans, are required to wear a mask, per U.S. CDC Order.
- Encourage vaccination of all eligible staff and students: **Vaccines** help reduce the spread of COVID-19 and the number of people who will need to quarantine, should there be a positive case in school.
- U.S. CDC's guidance strongly recommends screening testing (e.g., **pool testing**), masks, and physical distancing when possible.

# School Guidance

- DOE School Framework: [COVID-19 ToolKit | Department of Education \(maine.gov\)](#)
- CDC School: [Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools | CDC](#)
- School SOP [Standard Operating Procedures \(SOP\) for Responding to a Positive Case in Schools | Department of Education \(maine.gov\)](#) (Revised August 12, 2021)


# School Screening Form

Students and Staff  
should stay home if  
they are sick


## Pre-Screening Tool for School Attendance

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Within the past 24 hours have you had a fever\* or taken fever reducing medicine?

YES = 

Do you feel sick, had vomiting/diarrhea, fever\*, sore throat, or felt unwell?

YES = 

Have you been told to stay home and isolate/quarantine due to COVID-19 exposure?

YES = 



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*Stay home with any YES response to the questions above.*

*Attend school when all answers are NO and your child is feeling well with no other symptoms of illness. Call or see your school nurse or other designated person at school if you have questions.*

*IF YOUR CHILD HAS ANY ILLNESS THEY SHOULD STAY AT HOME UNTIL NO FEVER FOR 24 HOURS WITHOUT TAKING FEVER REDUCING MEDICATION AND SYMPTOMS ARE IMPROVING OR GONE.*

\*A fever is 100.4F/38C or greater.

  
Updated 8.16.21



# K-12 Pooled Testing



**As of August 26<sup>th</sup>:**

335 schools have enrolled, 105 districts

Pool positivity rate 0.4%

16 counties represented by enrollees

70,000+ targeted students/staff

**More Information:**

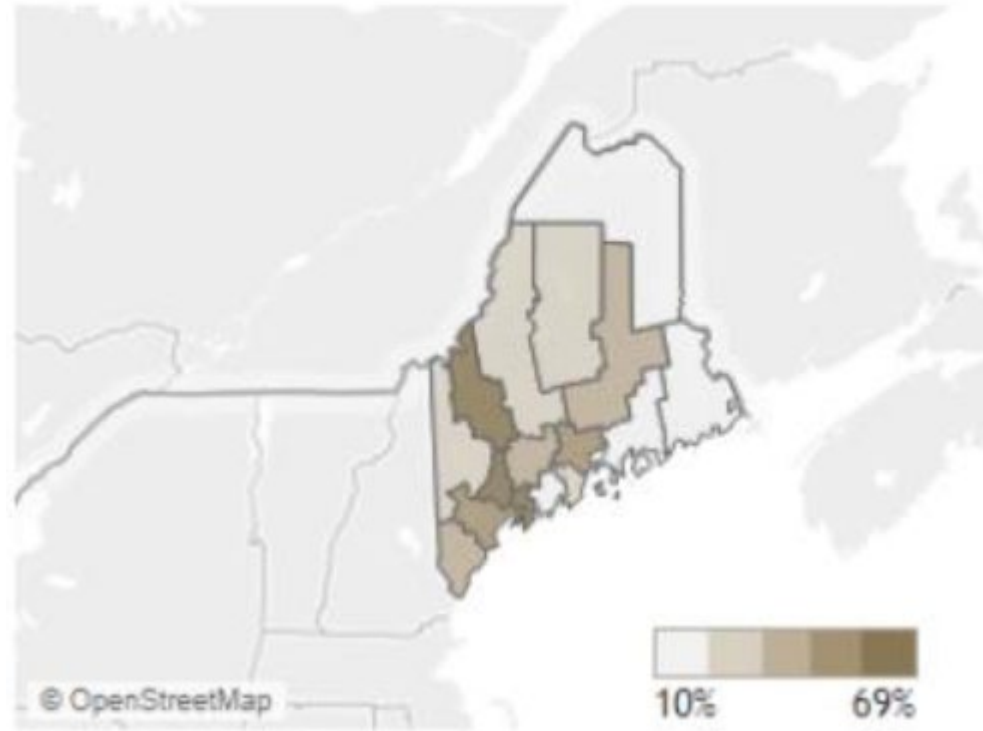
[Maine DOE Testing Information](#)

[Pooled Testing FAQs](#)

Federal CDC [COVID-19 School Testing Toolkit](#)

[MA Study on Pooled Testing](#)

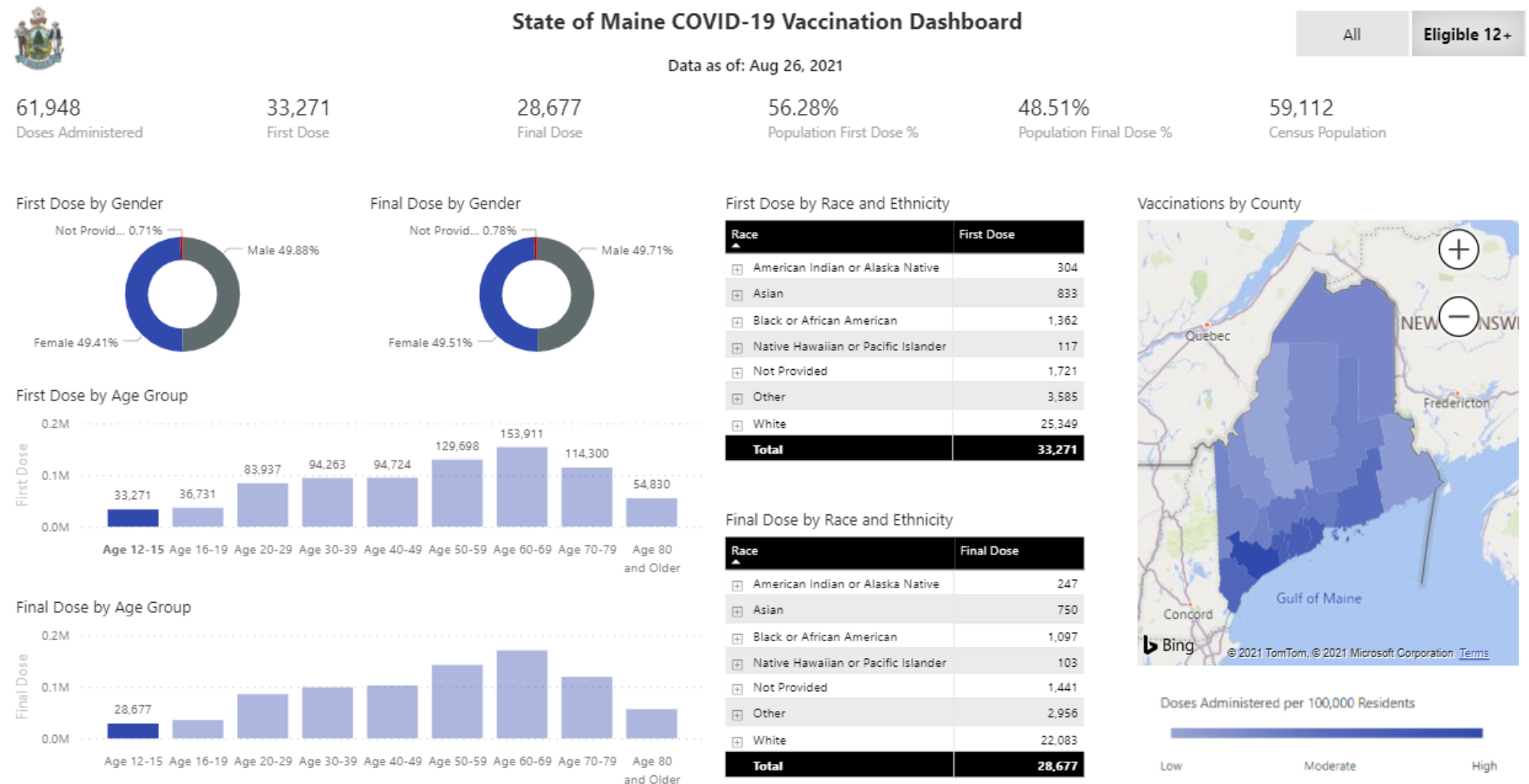
Enrolled districts by county



**Pooled testing enrollments**

# Youth Covid-19 Vaccination Rates

Currently, vaccine data is available by age group and county for youth. Zip code level data is available for all ages on the [COVID-19 Vaccination Dashboard | Covid-19 \(maine.gov\)](https://maine.gov/covid-19-vaccination-dashboard)



# Youth Covid-19 Estimated Vaccination Rates

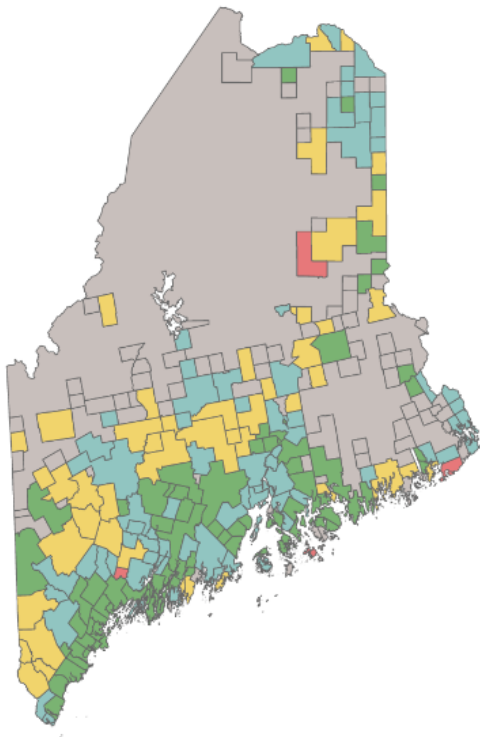
## COVID-19 Vaccination Rates for Youth by SAU

To help school communities plan for the 2021-2022 school year, COVID-19 vaccine clinics, and outreach, Maine DHHS and DOE are estimating the rate of COVID-19 vaccination for youth ages 12-18 by school administrative unit (SAU). The count of youth vaccinated in each zip code comes from data reported to the Maine CDC on people of all ages who have received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine.

Data will be updated about every two weeks.

Please [see the notes below](#) for information on the limitations of these estimates.

### COVID-19 Vaccination Rates for Youth by SAU



Vaccination Rate

- 0-24%
- 25-49%
- 50-74%
- 75-100%
- NA

Highlight SAU

Highlight SAU

[Maine COVID-19 Vaccination Rates for Youth by SAU | MIP | MeCDC | Maine DHHS](#)

- Estimated youth vaccination rates (% and at least one dose) are available at the School Administrative Unit (SAU) level
- Map displays the estimated rates by range, with corresponding colors from high to low.
- Estimates for each SAU come from the 2019 5-year American Community Survey ZIP code level population estimates and the number of youth in each SAU is based on Maine DOE data on the number of youth ages 12-18 for whom the SAU was financially responsible as of June 2021
- Data is suppressed if <5 students in this age group in the SAU
- Youth vaccination rates are reported to the Maine CDC through ImmPact: This may exclude data on some vaccinations administered through the Department of Defense, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and some Indian Tribes in Maine.
- Students who have been vaccinated and attend private schools, charter schools, have an approved transfer, or are tuitioned to schools located outside of the SAU where they reside are counted as vaccinated in the SAU where they reside based on the availability of address data, which may result in over or under-estimates of the vaccination rates in some school units.
- Data will be updated every 2 weeks

# School Staff Vaccination Rates & Reporting

- DHHS is requiring school staff to report COVID – 19 vaccine rates effective September 1
- High vaccination rates help ensure school safety
- Facilitates in-person learning and protects vulnerable students and staff
- Vaccination rates (%) will be publicly posted to guide local decision-making safety policies
- Public reporting will resemble the [Maine Health Care Worker COVID-19 Vaccination Dashboard](#)

# Assist Schools/SAUs to Raise

1. Partner with SAUs: SAUs can complete a survey/application with COVID vaccination plans for 2021-2022. They can request help connecting to a vaccine provider through this link: [2021-22 School COVID Vaccine Clinic Survey and Application](#)
2. Share community/family resources for vaccination: [COVID-19 Vaccine Information & Resources](#)
3. Participate in community forums with schools, local medical and public health experts
4. Learn about additional resources about hosting a vaccination clinic in the [School Location Vaccine Clinic \(SLVC\) Toolkit](#)

# Routine Childhood Vaccines- Law Goes into Effect September 1st

- Rulemaking still in process for LD 798/CH 154 on Childhood Immunizations. Routine technical rule changes are proposed to amend [Immunization Requirements for School Children 10-144 CMR ch. 261 \(a joint rule with the Department of Education, ch. 126\)](#)
- Maine Immunization Program sent letter to Providers on [Preparing Students for 2021-22 School Year 8\\_4\\_21.pdf](#) with focus on required school vaccines
- DOE also sent [a letter to schools](#) to distribute to families about the law that has been translated

# Maine DOE School Public Health Response Team

## Purpose

The School Public Health Response Team will be the point of contact that SAUs and Approved Private Schools (APS) can reach out to for the most current answers related to Covid-19, pooled testing and school located vaccine clinics (SLVC).

## Staff

- ☐ Coordinator- Nancy Dube, RN
- ☐ Three Public Health Specialists – Each will cover 3 Superintendent Regions
- ☐ Nine Public Health Liaisons- Each will cover one of the 9 Superintendent Regions
- ☐ DOE continues to have a contact tracing team focused on schools

# Supporting In-Person Learning in Schools

## Multilayered approach

- Encourage vaccination of all eligible staff and students and community members
- Recommend masking of all staff and students per CDC guidance
- Recommend testing: weekly pooled testing for all student and staff and rapid antigen testing for symptomatic individuals
- Social distance when possible
- Practice good hand hygiene
- Stay home when sick
- Support schools and families



# Thank you

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