Vaccination Rates Low Due to COVID-19, Doctors Worry Preventable Disease Could be Next Pandemic

Survey finds ²/₃ parents nervous to take kids to pediatician's office for routine visits like vaccinations

Orlando Health		
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NEWS PACKAGE

SUGGESTED TEASE	AS KIDS RETURN TO SCHOOL, EXPERTS WARN THAT COVID-19 ISN'T THE ONLY ILLNESS TO WORRY ABOUT. DETAILS ON HOW LOW VACCINATION RATES COULD POSE A NEW THREAT, COMING UP.
ANCHOR LEAD	IT'S ABOUT THAT TIME TO GET YOUR ANNUAL FLU SHOT, AND THIS YEAR EXPERTS SAY IT'S MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER TO GET YOUR FAMILY VACCINATED. BUT IT'S NOT JUST ABOUT THE FLU. WITH COVID-19 MAKING MANY PARENTS HESITANT TO TAKE THEIR CHILDREN FOR THEIR ROUTINE WELLNESS VISITS, EXPERTS WARN THAT A DROP IN VACCINATION RATES COULD BE A RECIPE FOR
	DISASTER AS KIDS RETURN TO SCHOOLS AND OTHER PUBLIC PLACES. BARB CONSIGLIO HAS THE DETAILS ON A NEW SURVEY HIGHLIGHTING PARENTS' CONCERNS AND RESERVATIONS REGARDING VACCINES.
(PACKAGE START) CG: Courtesy: Orlando Health :00 - :03	(Nats - Sound) :02
Shots of AJ and Cynthia prepping for school	A-J VELASCO (vel-AH-sco) IS EXCITED TO START KINDERGARTEN, BUT HIS PARENTS WORRY AS THE COVID-19 THREAT CONTINUES. :05
CG: Cynthia Velasco Mom	<i>"I do think that they're going to be doing their best to keep the classrooms clean, sanitized, students wearing their masks."</i> :06
Shots of AJ and Cynthia leaving for school	IT'S NOT JUST COVID PARENTS HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT, BUT OTHER INFECTIOUS DISEASES AS WELL.
Shots of patient and parent	VACCINATION RATES HAVE PLUMMETED SINCE THE PANDEMIC BEGAN, WHICH EXPERTS SAY COULD LEAD TO THE NEXT PANDEMIC OF DANGEROUS AND PREVENTABLE CHILDHOOD

	DISEASES. :12
CG: Alix Casler, MD Pediatrician	"All it will take is a case of measles entering our community and we will see loss of life that is completely and totally unnecessary." :11
Shot of Dr. and patient (blur for graphic) Graphic: Vaccinations Survey 84% - vaccinations are best way to prevent diseases 67% - Nervous to visit pediatrician's office Shots of Dr. Casler with patient	A NEW NATIONAL SURVEY BY ORLANDO HEALTH FOUND THAT WHILE THE VAST MAJORITY OF PARENTS BELIEVE VACCINES ARE THE BEST WAY TO PROTECT THEIR CHILDREN FROM INFECTIOUS DISEASES, ABOUT TWO-THIRDS ARE STILL FEARFUL OF TAKING THEIR KIDS TO THEIR PEDIATRICIAN'S OFFICE BECAUSE OF COVID-19. DOCTOR ALIX CASLER SAYS, LIKE MOST PEDIATRICIANS, SHE IS DOING EVERYTHING SHE CAN TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF HER PATIENTS AND GET THEM IN THE DOOR TO GET CAUGHT UP ON THEIR VACCINATION SCHEDULE. :20
Dr. Casler(CG'd earlier)	<i>"We don't have any crowding in the halls, there's one family at a time, no one sits in the waiting room anymore."</i> :07
Shots of Dr. Casler in exam room with patient	DOCTOR CASLER IS CONTACTING FAMILIES DIRECTLY TO HELP THEM OVERCOME BARRIERS TO THEIR WELLNESS CHECKUPS, WHETHER THAT'S NERVOUSNESS ABOUT COVID-19 OR LOSS OF EMPLOYMENT OR INSURANCE. :08
Shots of child getting vaccine	(Nats - patient getting vaccine) :01
Graphic: Vaccines survey 38% - believe their child does not need all vaccinations	THE SURVEY ALSO FOUND THAT SKEPTICISM ABOUT VACCINES IS STILL A MAJOR ISSUE, WITH THIRTY-EIGHT PERCENT OF PARENTS RESPONDING THAT THEY DON'T BELIEVE THEIR CHILD NEEDS ALL THE RECOMMENDED VACCINES. :09
Dr. Casler (CG'd earlier)	<i>"Unless you've seen the diseases that we're preventing, you cannot grasp the magnitude of benefit that comes from universal vaccination." :14</i>
Shots of AJ and Cynthia preparing for school	AS FOR A-J, HE'S LOOKING FORWARD TO HIS FIRST DAY IN HIS NEW SCHOOL, AND HIS PARENTS ARE READY WITH HIS IMMUNIZATION RECORDS AND ANY OTHER NECESSARY PRECAUTIONS. :08
Cynthia Velasco (CG'd earlier)	"Not only are we protecting our son, but we're doing our best to protect others in his school and in our community at large." :05
Shots of AJ and Cynthia playing	AT ORLANDO HEALTH, THIS IS BARB CONSIGLIO

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soccer (PACKAGE END)	REPORTING. :03
(PACKAGE END)	WHILE THE SURVEY FOUND SEVENTY-FOUR PERCENT OF PARENTS ARE MUCH MORE CONCERNED ABOUT COVID-19 THAN THE FLU, DOCTOR CASLER SAYS IT'S IMPORTANT TO GET YOUR FLU VACCINE AS SOON AS IT BECOMES AVAILABLE TO CONTROL YET ANOTHER SERIOUS ILLNESS THAT IS LARGELY PREVENTABLE. SHE SAYS THE DATA AND SCIENCE BEHIND VACCINES PROVE THAT THEY ARE SAFE AND EFFECTIVE AND THAT OUTREACH TO GET FAMILIES CAUGHT UP ON THEIR SCHEDULED VACCINES SHOULD BE A PRIORITY EVERYWHERE, ESPECIALLY IN AREAS HARD HIT BY COVID-19.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Share it! Suggested tweet:	A new survey by @OrlandoHealth finds many parents are still skeptical about vaccines and two-thirds are still nervous to take their children to their pediatrician's office due to COVID-19, something doctors warn could create a dangerous situation in schools. <u>bit.ly/3iiZqdo</u>
Suggested post:	A new national survey by <u>Orlando Health</u> finds while the vast majority of parents believe vaccines prevent diseases, two-thirds are still nervous to take their kids to the pediatrician for wellness visits due to COVID-19, something that has led to low vaccination rates during the pandemic and what experts warn could create a very dangerous situation. <u>bit.ly/3iiZqdo</u>

EXTRA BITES

CG: Alix Casler, MD Pediatrician	Casler says she'd like to keep eradicated diseases in the past: "Vaccines have been their own worst enemy because people don't remember polio, people don't remember whooping cough outbreaks, people don't remember measles outbreaks. Those are, because of vaccines, a thing of the past. We'd like to keep it that way."
	Casler says low vaccination rates threaten herd immunity: "The only reason that we have herd immunity protecting our children is because upwards of 90 to 95 percent of them are vaccinated. And once we drop below that level, we will not have herd immunity, and no one will be presumed safe."

CG: Alix Casler, MD Pediatrician	Casler says vaccination rates are down due to lack of access: "Overall childhood vaccine rates are down to potentially dangerous levels, probably because of access issues, parents being either unable or fearful of accessing medical care and preventative vaccinations for their children."
CG: Cynthia Velasco Mom	Casler says the flu shot will prevent adding another dangerous illness on top of the current threat: "The fact is that we have a safe and effective method to reduce the impact of influenza through a vaccine, so we're hoping that people will be literally just volunteering to get that vaccine so we can at least take something off of the table in terms of very serious illness."
	Cynthia says she's concerned about other illnesses at school in addition to COVID: "Obviously COVID is a threat but I do have concerns around flu season, around any of those illnesses that children can be more susceptible to once they're in a classroom setting, just simply based on the fact that they are giving each other high fives or hugs if they get excited about something or they're happy to see each other."
	Cynthia worries that her son's immune system is untested : "His immune system hasn't been tested in the way that it would have been if he was in school this past spring and in school more frequently like he would have been in the summer. That is a concern that I have because I do think that once they go back to school he is more susceptible for those regular illnesses that we see that happen during the school year."
	Cynthia says her pediatrician's office has been very helpful: "They've been really helpful along the way to make sure that we have the proper records, but then also reminding us that when it comes time for his wellness visit that they would like to see him. They would definitely, especially if he's going back to school, would like to see him ASAP."

References

¹Summary of the 2017-2018 Influenza Season. Center for Disease Control and Prevention, August 31, 2018. Online: <u>https://www.cdc.gov/flu/about/season/flu-season-2017-2018.htm</u>

²*Recommendations for Prevention and Control of Influenza in Children, 2018–2019.* **American Academy of Pediatrics, September 2018.** Online: <u>http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/early/2018/08/30/peds.2018-2367</u>

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