Exploring How the COVID-19 Pandemic Has Impacted Children’s Health and Well-Being

Wednesday, May 12, 2021
Noon-1 p.m.
VIRTUAL WEBEX MEETING

Join us for a virtual briefing on how children are faring during the COVID-19 pandemic. Child health experts will discuss trends in children’s health issues including the health care coverage children rely on and the impact of the pandemic on children’s mental and behavioral health.

As of April 22, more than 3.7 million children across the U.S. have tested positive for COVID-19 since the onset of the pandemic, representing 13.7% of all cases. COVID-19 can have serious consequences for children’s health, such as multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children associated with COVID-19, and the long-term health implications for those who have contracted the virus are still not fully known. Beyond the harm caused by COVID-19 infections, the pandemic has had wide-reaching impacts on children such as severe illness and mortality in family members, financial and emotional stress, social isolation, and disruption of routines and support systems. Millions of families experienced job and wage loss during the pandemic, and Medicaid and CHIP enrollment has grown more than 14% since February 2020. These strains have affected children as well. According to new research, from April to October 2020, hospitals across the U.S. saw a 24% increase in the proportion of mental health emergency department visits for children ages 5 to 11 and a 31% increase for children and adolescents ages 12 to 17.

Speakers will address these trends and identify the policy levers that can help children get the care they need. Speakers will also discuss potential barriers to care, and the important role Medicaid and CHIP play in ensuring children have access to the specialized benefits they need.

SPEAKERS:

Dr. Melinda Williams-Willingham, M.D.
Decatur Pediatric Group

Terrie Andrews, Ph.D.
Administrator of Behavioral Health,
Wolfson Children’s Hospital

Cara Coleman, J.D. M.P.H.
Director of Public Policy and Advocacy,
Family Voices

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- Children’s Hospital Association (CHA)
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- Children’s Defense Fund
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