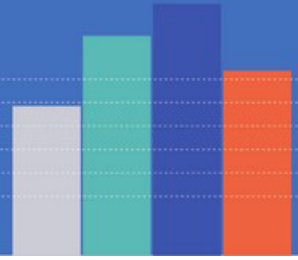




The Philadelphia  
Immunization Program

# CHART



## Vaccination Rates Drop in Philadelphia During the COVID-19 Pandemic

COVID-19 has impacted all of society and routine vaccination is no different. **Since Philadelphia's Stay at Home Orders on March 17th, 2020, we have seen a significant drop in pediatric and adult vaccine received across the city.** Conversations with providers and clinicians reveal a number of patient concerns that keep them from visiting their doctor for scheduled vaccination.

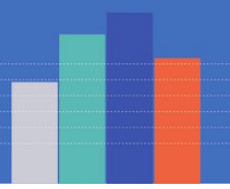
Regardless of the reason, as more Philadelphians miss their routine vaccines the whole city becomes more vulnerable to disease. The COVID-19 pandemic continues to endanger the lives of Philadelphians, and burden our medical systems, and we cannot risk the spread of vaccine preventable diseases in addition to COVID-19. The Philadelphia Immunization Program and Health Department are working with providers around the city to help reach patients and get them vaccinated. Together we can keep Philadelphia safe from vaccine preventable diseases.

### KEY TAKEAWAYS

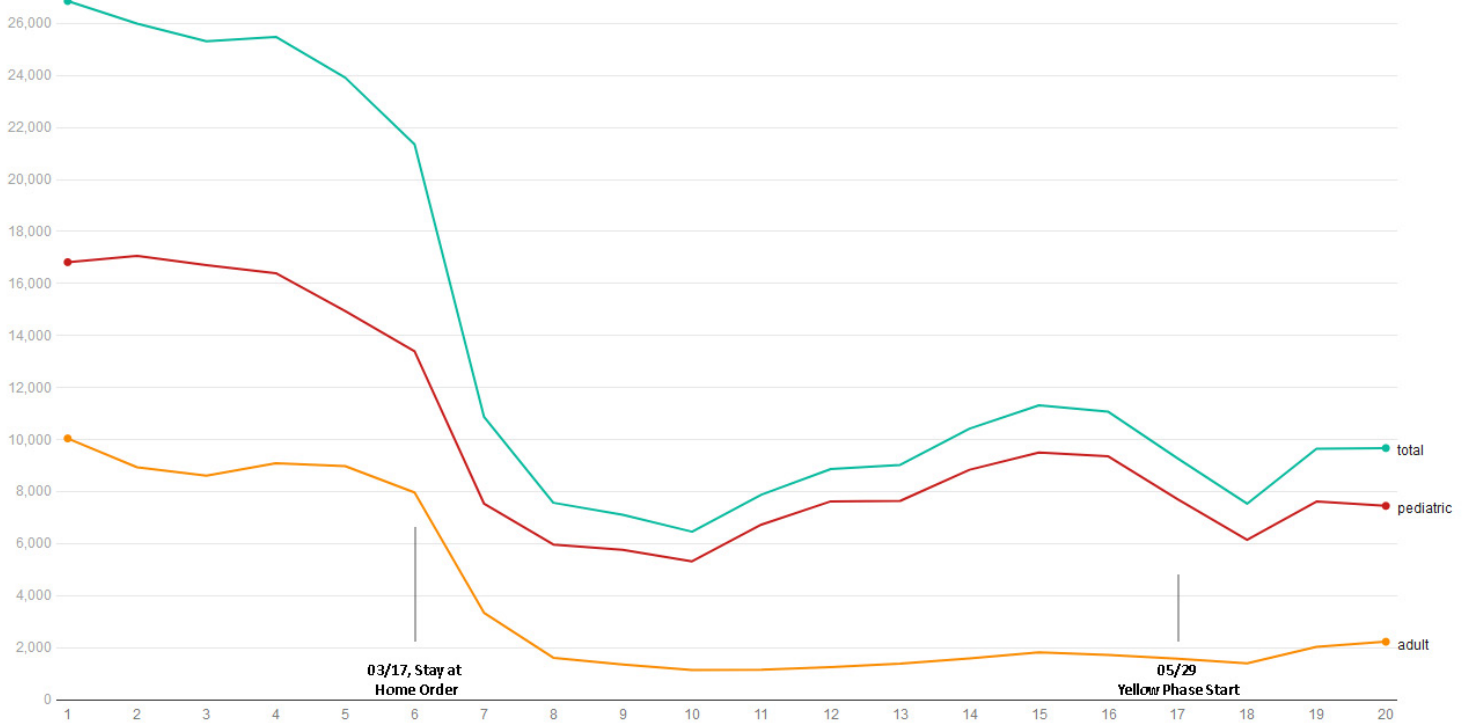
Vaccine rates have significantly decreased across Philadelphia since March's Stay at Home Orders.

Concerns of COVID-19 range from fear of exposure when entering a medical setting, lack of access to office-based care, lack of safe transportation, and lack of in-home care for family members

# CHART



Number of Immunizations by Week, Feb to June 2020

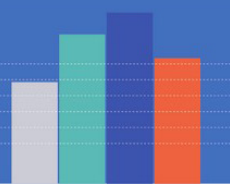


Vaccine rates have decreased by approximately 60% since March's Stay at Home Orders.

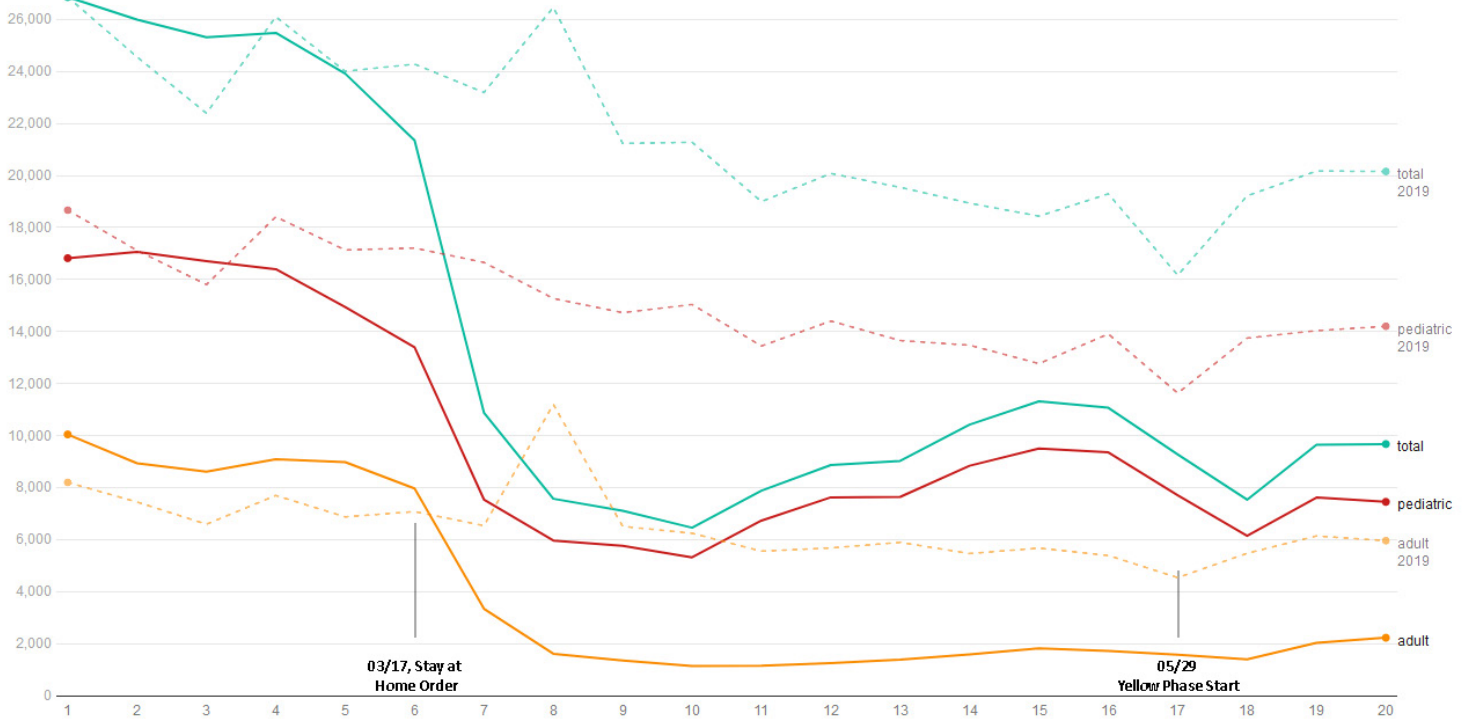
## Pediatric and adult vaccination decrease

Since March 17th, 2020, when the Stay at Home Order was issued, we have seen a dramatic drop in both pediatric and adult vaccine rates, including routine MMR and DTaP vaccines for children and infants. **Based on data from PhilaVax our Immunization Information System (IIS) we are seeing an approximate 60% drop in overall vaccinations from before the Stay at Home Order and the end of June.**

# CHART



Number of Immunizations by Week, Feb to June 2020

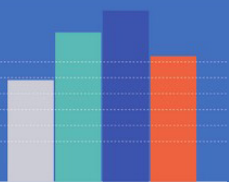


During the past four months we have seen weekly vaccine rates drop by as much as 18,000 doses compared to last year's data.

## Gaps in vaccination leave us all vulnerable

When comparing immunization data between February to June 2020 to February to June 2019 we see a consistent decrease in weekly vaccinations. **Since the Stay at Home Order was issued, weekly vaccines rates have dropped by 50% or more compared to last year.** The greatest overall decrease in weekly administered doses occurred in the beginning of April when we saw a drop of approximately 18,000 doses.

With so many missed vaccines, Philadelphia now has large gaps within our defense against vaccine preventable diseases. While vaccine preventable diseases affect all of us, some populations are impacted much more than others. For small children and infants, diseases such as measles, mumps, or whooping cough can be potentially lethal. For many of our elders and immuno-suppressed, vaccine preventable diseases can cause serious complications that require hospitalization. And members of the city's Black, Latinx, and economically disadvantaged populations run greater risk of complications due to barriers to adequate healthcare.



## WHAT CAN BE DONE

### The Health Department is:

- Communicating with providers enrolled in our Vaccine for Children (VFC) and Vaccines for Adults at Risk (VFAAR) programs, learning what concerns their patients have regarding vaccination during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Creating print media to send out to parents, addressing concerns about COVID-19 exposure at their medical provider's office and encouraging them to take their children to get vaccinated.
- Publishing content to educate the population on the importance of receiving routine vaccines during the COVID-19 pandemic.

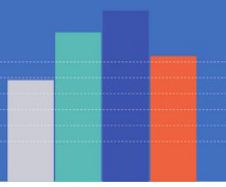
### The Health Care providers should:

- Follow up with patients who have missed their scheduled vaccines.
- Ensure patients that precautions have been taken to limit risk of COVID-19 exposure in their offices and buildings.
- Increase access to vaccination by expanding office hours and promoting walk-in or expedited immunization activities

### People can:

- Continue visiting their primary doctor or medical provider, or a Federally Qualified Health Center to get their scheduled vaccines and regular check-ups.
- Learn about the safety and benefits of vaccines.

# CHART



## Resources

### Philadelphia Immunization Program Website

<https://www.vax.phila.gov>

### Philadelphia Immunization Information System

<https://vax.phila.gov/phila-vax/Login.aspx>

### Supporting Immunization Data

[https://vax.phila.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/PostCOVID-ImmzRates\\_062920\\_data.xlsx](https://vax.phila.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/PostCOVID-ImmzRates_062920_data.xlsx)

### Immunization Schedules

<https://vax.phila.gov/phila-vax/Login.aspx>

## Suggested Citation

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