

# **Routine vaccination rates must recover to reduce secondary health consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic**

November 9 2021

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Authors of this special report note that, although ending the COVID-19 pandemic is of utmost importance, it is critical to recover from what

they describe as a "severe" disruption to routine vaccination services, which has resulted in "considerable deficits" of vaccination rates across all age groups.

Vaccinations that have seen drops include measles-mumps-rubella (MMR), diphtheria, tetanus and acellular pertussis (DTaP) and polio, as well as HPV vaccination rates for children 9-12. This drop in routine vaccinations may have dire consequences to future population health and a potential to strain an already overtaxed health system.

The authors conclude, "Recovering from the decline in routine [vaccination rates](#) caused by the pandemic will take years. This [recovery](#) requires all stakeholders to drive awareness of the importance of routinely recommended vaccines; facilitate access to vaccination; and build [vaccine](#) confidence."

The research was published in *The Annals of Family Medicine*.

**More information:** Ava Skolnik et al, Silent Consequences of COVID-19: Why It's Critical to Recover Routine Vaccination Rates Through Equitable Vaccine Policies and Practices, *The Annals of Family Medicine* (2021). [DOI: 10.1370/afm.2730](https://doi.org/10.1370/afm.2730)

Provided by American Academy of Family Physicians

Citation: Routine vaccination rates must recover to reduce secondary health consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic (2021, November 9) retrieved 5 May 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2021-11-routine-vaccination-recover-secondary-health.html>

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