



## *Department of Public Health*

Monroe County, New York

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### **Monroe County Public Health Commissioner Michael Mendoza Calls on Parents, Child Caregivers to Remain Vigilant in Fight Against COVID-19**

Dr. Michael Mendoza, Commissioner of the Monroe County Department of Public Health, issued a reminder Tuesday, asking parents and others caring for children under 12 years of age to remain vigilant in safeguarding against the COVID-19 virus.

“These children are not yet eligible for vaccination, and studies show they could be particularly susceptible to the Delta variant if it finds its way into our community,” Dr. Mendoza said, noting that an outbreak among young people could easily endanger vulnerable adults, such as those who are unvaccinated or only partially vaccinated, or those who have compromised immune systems. “Most of us are now enjoying a respite from the pandemic, but it is not over. We should follow existing guidance to prevent another surge in cases.”

Dr. Mendoza urged parents, child care providers, camp operators and summer school programs to keep a close watch for symptoms of COVID-19 in children.

“Parents should not send a child to child care, summer school or camp if the child is experiencing symptoms. Instead, consult with your primary care provider, and have your child tested for COVID-19.” Dr. Mendoza said.

Mendoza said masks remain strongly recommended for children in child care settings and camps when indoors, consistent with CDC guidance. Children should be assigned cohorts as much as possible in these settings, and have limited interaction with others outside of their own cohort.

“Our Contact Tracing Team continues to work closely with schools, day cares and camps to help them prevent COVID-19 cases from expanding into clusters, and to limit the number of unvaccinated individuals we have to quarantine as a result of exposure to COVID-19,” Dr. Mendoza noted. “But we need the support of parents and others in the community to keep this pandemic under control in Monroe County.”

Dr. Mendoza also reminded families to make sure unvaccinated children are wearing face masks in indoor public spaces and remaining socially distant as much as possible. When planning a summer vacation, families should consider the prevalence of COVID-19 when choosing a destination. He urged all eligible individuals to get vaccinated as soon as possible. To find a nearby vaccine clinic, go to <https://www.flvaccinehub.com> or visit the Monroe County website at [www.MonroeCounty.gov](http://www.MonroeCounty.gov).