

# UNMASK THE FACTS

July 13 – July 18

July 12, 2021

## WHO warns about mixing COVID-19 vaccines.

The World Health Organization has advised against individuals choosing to mix and match COVID-19 vaccines from different companies. In an online press briefing, the WHO chief scientist, Soumya Swaminathan, said that such decisions should be left to public health authorities with adequate information and not to individuals. At present, the WHO, CDC, and FDA advise against mixing vaccines and the use of boosters.

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July 15, 2021

## COVID-19 cases rise among children as vaccination rates drop.

In the U.S., only a quarter of children from 12-15 years old are fully vaccinated against COVID-19. A recent national report shows that vaccination rates for children have dropped from 12.1% to 11.5% between July 8 - 15. After witnessing decreases in weekly reported cases of COVID-19 in children over the past couple of months, states are now seeing an increase in children testing positive for COVID-19 – over 23,500 child cases were added this week.

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July 13, 2021

## Friends and family play a major role in vaccination decisions.

A new report shows that vaccine confidence has improved in recent months: 21% of participants polled in January who did not immediately want to take an authorized COVID-19 vaccine have since decided to get vaccinated. Friends, family members, and doctors played a major role in their decision. Seeing friends and family get vaccinated without serious side effects, talking to relatives about their decisions, and asking doctors about personal risks were all effective strategies for increasing vaccine confidence.

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July 16, 2021

## FDA prioritizes Pfizer's application for full approval.

Pfizer announced that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration had granted a Priority Review designation for its Biologics License Application. This application includes clinical data from the pivotal Phase 3 clinical trial of the vaccine, where the vaccine's efficacy and safety were observed up to six months after the second dose. The current application (which is still under review) seeks full FDA approval for the use of their mRNA vaccine in adults (>16 years old).

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July 15, 2021

## U.S. Surgeon General deems health misinformation a 'serious threat to public health.'

The U.S. Surgeon General issued an official advisory to warn the American public about the growing threat of health misinformation. As of late May, [67% of unvaccinated adults](#) had heard at least one COVID-19 vaccine myth and either believed it to be true or were unsure of its accuracy. The full advisory provides strategies for health organizations and professionals to dispel this misinformation.

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