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Children’s Annual Checkups Improved during COVID-19 Summer Months, But Still Down 13%

Checkups for Children under 3 up by 6% over same month last year

HOUSTON (August 17, 2020) – In support of National Immunization Awareness Month, the COVID-19 summer has shown positive trends for parents bringing in their children for their annual exams. [Legacy Community Health](#) compared the total number of well-child appointments to the same months last year, and June showed a 9% increase while July had a 13% decrease for children over three years old.

This is a vast improvement from the [50% decrease Legacy saw in these appointments in May](#) and [nearly 90% in April](#), likely the result of more parents feeling confident in bringing their children to the doctor in the wake of extra precautions implemented at Legacy clinics as COVID-19 spreads throughout the region.

“We sounded the alarm as soon as we saw the drop in numbers, reaching out to parents whose child was due or past due for their checkups, and thankfully parents took action,” said Dr. Tamisha Jones, pediatric medical director at Legacy Community Health. “However, with some schools going back to in-person classes, it’s now more important than ever for every child to be up-to-date with their vaccines.”

Wellness visits for children age two and under were up 30% in June and 6% in July from the same months in 2019.

While the trends are moving in a positive direction, Legacy continues to encourage an on-time vaccination schedule for children, even during COVID-19. Vaccines drastically reduce infant deaths and disability caused by vaccine-preventable diseases. Postponing early vaccines for babies and young children could create a vaccine gap and possibly expose a child to diseases like measles, pertussis or pneumococcus.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Legacy clinics have proactively changed procedures and patient visits to help promote maximum protection at our facilities, such as [increased use of telemedicine](#) and creating [a drive-thru for sick pediatric patients in need of lab testing](#).

If you have questions or concerns about vaccinating your child during the COVID-19 pandemic, contact your child’s Legacy pediatrician or provider to discuss your particular situation. To set up an appointment for sick pediatric visits through Legacy’s Virtual Pediatric Clinic, new or established patients can call **(832) 548-5000** and follow instructions to schedule a virtual

appointment with a provider. Health providers who speak Spanish or other languages are available.

Legacy also continues to offer adult and pediatric primary care and sick visits, HIV/AIDS care, OB/GYN services, free HIV and pregnancy testing, and virtual behavioral health services for adults and children. Legacy's locations and hours of operation are always listed at www.legacycommunityhealth.org.

Legacy accepts most HMOs/PPOs, Medicaid, Medicare and CHIP plans. Legacy also utilizes a sliding scale fee to lower the cost of services for patients. Uninsured patients are also welcome at all Legacy clinics.

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About Legacy Community Health

Legacy Community Health (Legacy) is a full-service network of community health clinics offering primary and specialty care in the Texas Gulf Coast region. Services include adult primary care, pediatrics, dental care, vision services, behavioral health services, OB/GYN and maternity, vaccinations and immunizations, health promotion and community outreach, wellness and nutrition, and comprehensive HIV/AIDS care. With 39 locations across Houston, Baytown, Deer Park, and Beaumont, Legacy is the largest Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) in Texas. Legacy has been a United Way-affiliated agency since 1990. To learn more, visit www.legacycommunityhealth.org.