

The Kid Angle

Kid-focused news from First Focus on Children

**Senate Budget Good for Kids — COVID isn't
August 12, 2021**

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Senate Budget and Taxes

The second tranche of checks for the expanded **Child Tax Credit goes out tomorrow**, giving 65 million families support to buy groceries, diapers, school supplies and other items their children need. (Check out how [four working moms](#) are spending their refund.) The **Senate's \$3.5 trillion budget outline**, passed on Wednesday, **prioritizes extending this enhanced support** for an unspecified number of years, at refund levels of \$3,000 per child ages 6 to 17 and \$3,600 annually for children under 6. The budget outline would **also prioritize free universal pre-school, funding for children's health and well-being, a path to citizenship for immigrant children and families**, and other supports.

"We agree with the Biden Administration that America needs groundbreaking investments in these areas and legislation to prevent the government from raising taxes on American families and doubling the child poverty rate, which is a long-term crisis in need of a long-term solution," **First Focus on Children President Bruce Lesley [said in a statement](#)**.

Committees have until Sept. 15 to flesh out plans for spending and policy priorities.

CTC Bonus material:

- **From the Niskanen Center: [Measuring the Child Tax Credit's Economic and Community Impact](#)**. Key Takeaways: 1) Monthly child benefits support investments in children and **promote family stability**; 2) CTC expansion will **boost consumer spending by \$27 billion, generate \$1.9 billion in revenues from state and local sales taxes, and support over 500,000 thousand full time jobs** at the median wage; 3) In relative terms, the CTC expansion provides **larger benefits to states with lower average incomes and larger average family sizes**; and 4) **Rural regions stand to benefit** from a substantial injection of relative purchasing power equivalent to 1.35% of non-metro GDP.

Kids and COVID: A round up

Children v. Delta

It is not yet clear whether the Delta variant causes more severe disease in children, but its high level of infectiousness is **causing a surge of pediatric**

Covid-19 cases.— [The Delta Variant Is Sending More Children to the Hospital. Are They Sicker, Too?](#), *New York Times*

[A]s the hyper-transmissible Delta variant hammers the United States, the **greatest hardships are being taken on by the unvaccinated, a population that includes some 50 million children younger than age 12.** — [Delta Is Bad News for Kids](#), *The Atlantic*

Unvaccinated children will soon be starting school during what might be the most dangerous moment in the pandemic for them. In the week ending Aug. 5, **more than 93,000 children tested positive** for the coronavirus, **a nearly 400 percent increase from just three weeks earlier**, due in large part to the extremely contagious delta variant...**Every day, more than 200 children under the age of 18 are hospitalized** in the United States because of covid-19. — [Opinion: The pandemic has become more dangerous for children](#), *The Washington Post*

Children in the ICU

TEXAS



FLORIDA: As schools opened Tuesday in 45 out of 67 counties, Florida had the **second-highest number of children hospitalized for the treatment of COVID-19** in the nation...Florida is second only to Texas in the hospitalization of COVID-infected children, and by scant margins as of this writing. But **on Friday, the state led the nation in children’s hospitalizations.** — [Opinion: As schools open, Florida children with COVID pack pediatric hospitals. DeSantis doesn’t care](#), *Miami Herald*

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Not only do 0 adult ICU beds remain statewide, but the state's only pediatric hospital, the Children's of Mississippi, is now full, including with children in ICUs and on ventilators for life support.

Gov. Reeves still refuses to mandate masks in schools.



Mississippi's Hospital System Could 'Fail' Within 10 Days, UMMC Warns As Fe...
With COVID-19 patients overflowing at the University of Mississippi Medical Center, including in its pediatric center, hospital leaders are warning that the ...
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UTAH



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Last year at this time we had 173 COVID cases in kids age 5-13. This week we've had 621.

Early indications are delta sends more kids to the hospital.

We need masks in schools, but politicians won't do it. One doc calls it "recipe for disaster." #utpol



Too many Utah leaders would rather send kids to the hospital than make them ...
With school around the corner, COVID is raging at twice the levels it was at the beginning of last school year and delta variants appear to be impacting children...
sltrib.com

KANSAS



Child Health USA
@ChildHealthUSA



“The latest numbers from the American Academy of Pediatrics (@AmerAcadPeds) show coronavirus cases in children are up 84 percent compared to the previous week. That’s 71,000 kids testing positive.” —>
buff.ly/3lloBuS



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Children v. Mask Mandates

[A]dvocating against both vaccines and masks is not a policy in the best interest of children. It is a **complete abdication of adult responsibility** and leaves children completely unprotected. **Doing “nothing” might not be malicious, but it is not neutral.** It fails children by knowingly leaving children in harm’s way. — [Children Need Adults to Act Responsibly and in Their Best Interests](#), *First Focus on Children*

Schools in Florida, Texas, Arizona, South Carolina, Utah, Iowa and Oklahoma are legally prohibited from imposing mask mandates, either by state law or governors’ executive orders...A **rash of lawsuits** have been filed against several states’ bans on school mask mandates, including [at least three](#) in Florida and [two](#) in [Texas](#), and a state court in [Arkansas](#) has already issued a preliminary injunction temporarily invalidating that state’s mask mandate ban while the case moves forward. — [More Schools Defying State Governments To Impose Mask Mandates – Here’s What Could Happen Next](#), *Forbes*

The New York Times is tracking mask policies at the state level, including where residents are advised to follow current federal guidance and where leaders are rejecting such guidance or mandates.

