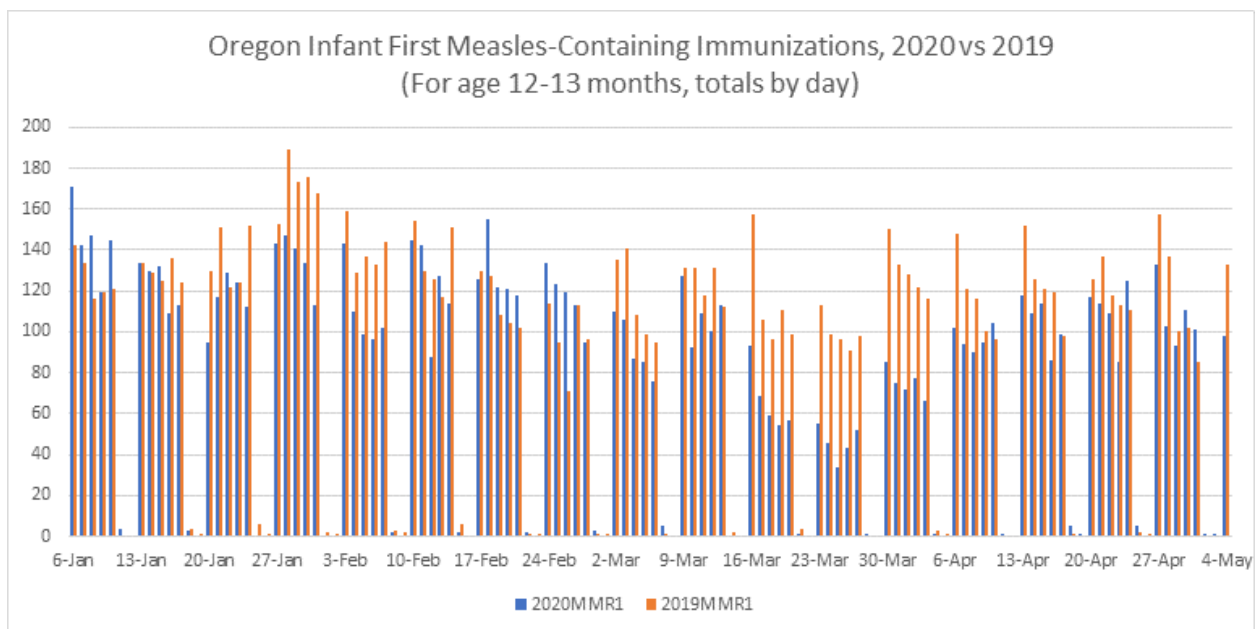


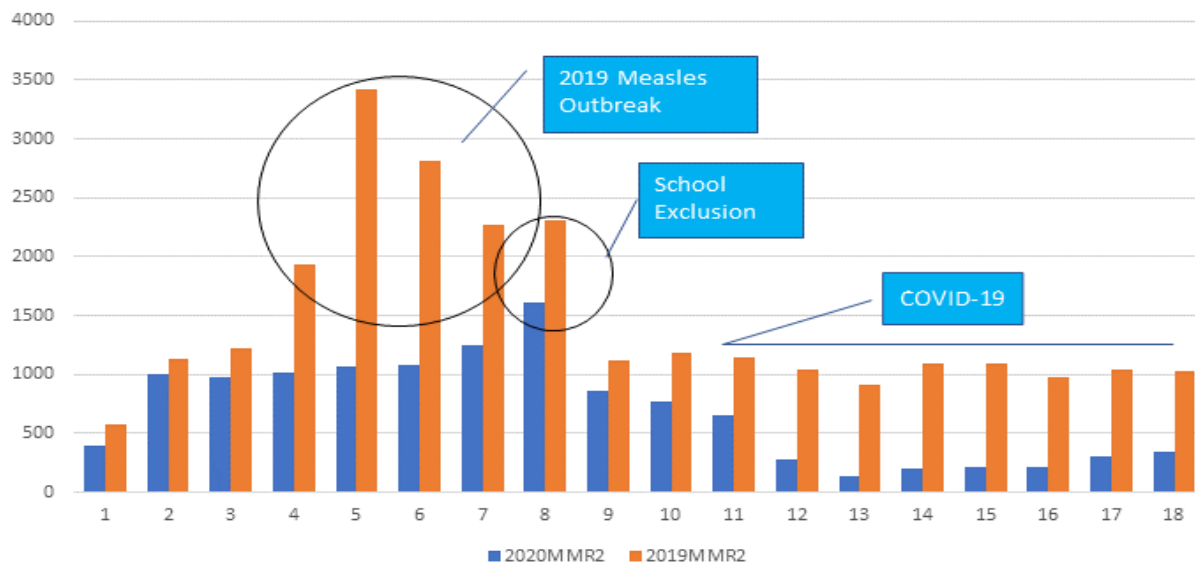
Impact of COVID-19 on Immunization Services in Oregon

Early data from the Oregon immunization registry (ALERT IIS) and a survey of Vaccines for Children Program (VFC) providers show a sharp decline in routine immunization of children and adults. Clinics have had significant operational changes due to the pandemic; 95% of VFC clinics reported changing immunization practices; 65% limited well-child visits with 5% cancelling all well-child visits; 50% reported cancelling or rescheduling immunizations for older children and adolescents; and 81% reported trouble maintaining staffing. In open-ended responses, clinics frequently brought up need for assistance getting children to return for missed immunizations. Survey respondents represented 44% of all clinics administering MMR vaccine to children between one and two years of age statewide. These changes in clinic operations could be complicated by large increases in Medicaid and VFC eligible children that are predicted.

Preliminary data from ALERT IIS show significant drops in vaccination with wide variability between vaccine type. Early childhood vaccines such as MMR show reductions in the number of doses administered by day beginning in early March with a partial recovery by mid-April. Vaccines administered to older children, adolescents, and adults, saw large drops and no recovery is currently visible. This includes vaccines such as HPV which are a high public health priority in Oregon and are not required under Oregon school immunization laws. Similar drops have occurred nationwide, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is encouraging managed care and other health plans ease in-network/medical home policies and consider other interventions to address immunization rates. These concerning trends in immunizations have serious implications for the future health of Oregonians and the possible spread of vaccine preventable diseases in Oregon.



Oregon 2nd Dose MMR Among Children Age 2 to 12,
Total per Epiweek, 2020 vs 2019



HPV Immunization Initiations per Day in Oregon, 2020 Vs 2019,
For Teens/Tweens Between Ages 9 and 13.

