



Child hospitalizations, Long-COVID concerns rise amid omicron surge in South Dakota

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South Dakota News Watch
As COVID-19 infections sweep across South Dakota in record numbers, concerns are rising that children and adolescents are suffering more severe illness than before and may be susceptible to symptoms that can afflict them long into their lifetimes.

A growing body of medical research and reports from pediatricians in South Dakota indicate that some children who test positive and overcome the initial coronavirus infection are suffering the same lingering, sometimes debilitating symptoms as adults who had COVID-19.

Symptoms that can occur in children well after initial infection with COVID-19 include respiratory problems, cognitive defects, chronic fatigue, headaches and loss of senses of smell or taste.

Doctors in South Dakota have seen a recent increase in the number of children who are suffering from severe symptoms of COVID-19 immediately and shortly after infection. In early 2022, South Dakota saw the first deaths of children with COVID-19 — one an infant in Pennington County and another from Minnehaha County who was 10 or under, according to state health officials.

The condition known as “Long-COVID,” and patients with lingering symptoms who are referred to as “long-haulers,” are well documented among adults who have had COVID-19.

But, researchers in America and across the world are increasingly concerned that children who get



Rates of vaccination of children and youths in South Dakota are slightly below the national average. Drew Prenger of South Dakota received a COVID-10 vaccination in November 2021.

Photo: Courtesy Sanford Health

COVID-19 could face similar long-range symptoms that may inhibit their ability to live normal or fruitful lives.

“I don’t know how big of a piece of the pie that is, but certainly we have patients who are young and have developed long-hauler symptoms,” said Dr. Chad Thury, a family physician who is also regional director of clinical quality at Avera Health in Sioux Falls. “Whether that’s altered taste and smell and they can’t eat and start to lose weight because everything tastes rancid, or it is ‘brain fog’ or not being able to think clearly.”

With the COVID-19 pandemic starting only two years ago, it is hard to say now if infected children will have symptoms later in life. But, Thury said it is worrisome that long-hauler symptoms once seen only in adults are now being seen in children.

“The general fatigue and malaise,

those we see pretty often in kids,” he said. “Those can last a number of weeks after a COVID infection.”

As cases of COVID-19 among children have continued to rise, especially since the highly transmissible omicron coronavirus variant became dominant in the U.S. last year, more children have ended up in the hospital with serious and sometimes long-range symptoms, said Dr. Jody Huber, a pediatrician and head of children’s intensive care at Sanford Health in Sioux Falls.

“It has been alarming for us,” Huber said. “What we have seen with this current variant is that we have had more children hospitalized with COVID than we ever have before.”

As of Jan. 19, 2022, the South Dakota Department of Health re-

COVID

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Clark County with two sizable dairies - trying to figure out how to have nice roads

At the Tuesday, February 1 meeting of the Clark County Board of Commissioners, a public hearing was held for Tax Increment Financing (TIF) #3.

With the help of Toby Morris, a finance specialist with the State of South Dakota, a 36-page TIF District #3 pamphlet was authored and was the basis for this public hearing. Morris was in attendance.

Generally speaking, a TIF allows local governments to invest in public infrastructure and other improvements up-front. Local governments can then pay later for those investments. They can do so by capturing the future anticipated increase in tax revenue generated by the project. This financing approach is possible when a new development is of a sufficiently large scale, and when its completion is expected to result in a sufficiently large increase in the value of surrounding real estate, such that the

resulting incremental local tax revenues generated by the new project can support a bond issuance.

In this case, TIF bonds from the proposed Washington Dairy would be used to finance road costs on County Road 17, north of the Clark Dairy to US Highway 212.

To be clear, the Tax Incremental Financing district would be Washington Township area, where the Washington Dairy will be located. Riverview, LLC is the owner of this Washington Dairy and also the owner of Clark Dairy, where on County Road 17 north of the Clark Dairy for five miles, money would be used from TIF #3 for making this road better.

Clark County TIF #2 is the 11-mile stretch of road to be improved on Clark County Road 17, south of the Clark Dairy to S.D. Highway 28. This TIF #2 has already been approved.

TIF #3

At Tuesday’s planning and zoning portion of the meeting, Clark County Board of Commissioners president Wallace Knock began the public hearing prefacing what TIF #3 was about, how it could be used, and after talking prior to Tuesday’s meeting, how it could be restructure-

TIF #3
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WEATHER

Robert Cole - Official Weather Observer

	HI	LO	PR
Feb. 01	39	12	0
Feb. 02	14	-10	0
Feb. 03	03	-12	0
Feb. 04	11	-12	0
Feb. 05	13	-6	0
Feb. 06	45	13	0
Feb. 07	20	10	0
2022 precipitation to date	0.30		
2021 precipitation to date	0.60		

Courier has a new feature starting this week

▲Weekly community newspapers are a needed commodity

What is old, is now new. Starting this week, the Clark County Courier will feature ‘Courier Remembers When’.

Clark County events from 5, 10, 25, 50 and 100 years ago will be remembered from Courier archives.

The newspaper has the ability to do this. Whether this period in time will become known as the Information Age, or the Computer Age, or Digital Age, or New Media Age, this information can only be found in the Clark County Courier.

Ironically, amid all this transformation, the digital revolution itself

is ending. Over the next decade, new computing architectures will move to the forefront and advancements in areas like synthetic biology and materials. Science will reshape entire fields, such as healthcare, energy and manufacturing.

But, Clark County historical events, newsworthy to all in the county, will be found in the Clark County Courier.

The aforementioned paragraphs are important because rival community newspapers are at a critical crossroad in time. Not just the Courier, but weekly papers mean

a great deal to the community, and each paper needs someone with a passion to keep readers informed of decisions made at city hall, at the school, at the courthouse, and all activities need to be covered, wherever and whenever they happen.

Community weeklies are the historians of our towns and schools. I’m happy that the readers of the Courier enjoy our product both in print and online. The bulk of which are paper in hand subscribers and we have heard quite often lately, “We need our paper!” That is so true.



February means athletic post season tourneys are in the future

January and February are very busy months on the winter high school athletic schedule. With COVID-19 and the flu going around, we’re fortunate the weather, at least in the short term, is to be quite mild, as South Dakota winters go. Many have gotten into watching the games live-streamed when possible, but nothing beats the atmosphere of a high school athletic activity.

As February progresses, post season tournaments will be upon us.

The Clark-Willow Lake wrestlers will be attending the McCook Central/Montrose Round Robin Duals on Friday, February 11. Clark-Willow Lake wrestles Canton in the opening round at 1:00 p.m.

Other teams at Salem include the host school McCook Central/Montrose, Canton, Clark-Willow Lake, Faulkton, Sisseton, Marion/Freeman, Warner/Northwestern and Viborg/Hurley/Wakonda/Irene.

The Region 1B is Saturday, February 19, in Britton. The top four wrestlers in each weight class will advance to State, in Sioux Falls, February 25 and 26.

The girls basketball regular season is fast and furiously getting to the post season.

The Lady Cyclones host Redfield, Thursday, in Clark. Saturday is the Flandreau doubleheader in Willow

Lake; and Tuesday is the Britton-Hecla doubleheader in Clark. Region 1A begins the following Tuesday, February 22.

Currently, Clark-Willow Lake sits in sixth place in Region 1A, behind Redfield and ahead of Webster. Coach Sam Williams club counting last night’s game against Hamlin, has four consecutive home games.

The boys basketball schedule will also stay busy with seven regular season games remaining.

The Cyclones are currently seeded second in Region 1A, behind their latest opponent, the Groton Tigers, who they bested 60-47, Saturday, in Groton. The Cyclones play in Redfield Friday, host Flandreau Saturday and host Britton-Hecla on Tuesday. The game Saturday is in Willow Lake and Tuesday in Clark.

The Cyclones have won seven of their last eight contests, sitting at 8-5.

Pictured left, is senior Tyler O’Neill scoring two of his 22 against Tiospa Zina. Right, Maggie Hovde drives against an Aberdeen Roncalli opponent. Center, top, Avery Nichols, at 285, goes for the pin; Center, bottom, Gunnar Kvistad shoots his opponent, at 152.

Congratulations to all the Cyclone programs!

Photos by Heather Jordan & Christina Kannegieter