

What are the effects of the new COVID variants on transmission and school reopenings in pediatric populations?

<https://covid19evidencereviews.saskhealthauthority.ca/en/permalink/coviddoc286>

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Status: 6. Cancelled

Research Team: Public Health

Key Findings:

Pediatric cases of COVID-19 constitute between 1% to 10% of all confirmed cases of COVID-19; variation exists by jurisdiction.

Few case reports exist of confirmed child-to-other transmission. Contact tracing studies suggest that children are unlikely to be transmitters of the disease. Households are the most likely environments for transmission.

A recent large South Korean contact tracing study however (in pre-print) found that household COVID-19 transmission rates for children age 10-19 were significantly higher than in adults; transmission rates for children age 0-9 were relatively low.

AUGUST 7th, 2020 UPDATE: No new studies examining secondary attack rates of pediatric index cases were found. Studies continue to suggest low transmission from pediatric cases, and high proportion of pediatric cases being asymptomatic to mildly symptomatic.

MARCH 9th, 2021 UPDATE: Variants of Concerns are an emerging threat, but literature on pediatric prevalence and transmissibility is sparse. The British variant seems more transmissible (secondary attack rate higher) but follows the same age-related distribution of cases seen earlier in the pandemic.

Category: Epidemiology
Infection Prevention and Control

Subject: Vaccines
Variants
Pediatrics
Transmission
Schools

Population: All Pediatrics

Clinical Setting: Public Health

Priority Level: Level 2 One week (7 days)

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