

CORONA VIRUS INFECTION AND CHILDREN

WHAT IS THE RISK OF A CHILD BECOMING SICK WITH COVID-19 “CORONA VIRUS INFECTION”?

Based on available evidence children do not appear to be at higher risk of COVID-19 “Corona virus infection” than adults.

While some children and infants have been sick with COVID-19, adults make up most of the known cases to date. You can learn more about who is most at risk for health problems if they have COVID-19 “Corona virus infection”, in a study conclusion; Although 4 subtypes of SARS-CoV-2 “Corona Virus” were detected, the recently discovered SARS-CoV-2 “Corona virus” subtypes (NL63) and (HKU1) are accounted for the majority of SARS-CoV-2 “Corona virus” cases detected in the cohort of mostly hospitalized children with respiratory symptoms. New subtypes are likely to represent a substantial portion of previously unexplained respiratory illnesses.

HOW CAN WE PROTECT OUR CHILDREN FROM COVID-19“CORONA VIRUS INFECTION”?

You can encourage your child to help stop the spread of COVID-19“Corona virus infection” by teaching them to do the same things everyone should do to stay healthy;

- Clean hands often using soap and water or alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid people who are sick (coughing and sneezing).
- Clean and disinfect oftentimes touched surfaces daily in household common areas (e.g. tables, hard-backed chairs, doorknobs, light switches, remotes, handles, desks, toilets, sinks etc.)
- Launder items including;

Washable plush toys as appropriate in accordance with the manufacturer’s instructions If possible, launder items by using the warmest appropriate water setting for the items and dry them completely.

Note: Dirty laundry from an ill person can be washed with other people’s items.

ARE THE SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19 “CORONA VIRUS INFECTION” DIFFERENT IN CHILDREN FROM ADULTS?

No;

The symptoms of COVID-19 “Corona virus infection” are similar in both children and adults.

However, children with confirmed COVID-19 “Corona virus infection” have generally presented with mild symptoms. Reported symptoms in children include cold-like symptoms such as; fever, runny nose, and cough also note that vomiting and diarrhea have also been reported.

It’s not known yet whether some children may be at higher risk form a severe illness;

For an example, children with underlying medical conditions and special healthcare needs.

There is much more to be learned about how the disease impacts children in different conditions!

SHOULD CHILDREN WEAR MASKS?

No, if your child is healthy, there is no need for them to wear a face mask. Only people with symptoms of the illness or who are providing care to those who are ill should wear masks.

Reference:

- Clinical disease in children associated with newly described coronavirus subtypes(1)
- Jane Kuypers, Emily T Martin, Judson Heugel, Nancy Wright, Rhoda Morrow, Janet A Englund *Pediatrics* 119 (1), e70-e76, 2007
- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/specific-groups/children-faq.htm>(2)