

STAY SAFE MN

Anchoring our Work During COVID-19

Susan Klammer, Epidemiologist

8/11/2020

When Covid Subsided, Israel Reopened Its Schools. It Didn't Go Well.

As countries consider back-to-school strategies for the fall, a coronavirus outbreak at a Jerusalem high school offers a cautionary tale.



In Denmark, the Rarest of Sights: Classrooms Full of Students

Danish elementary schools have become the first in Europe to reopen in lockdown

WORLD NEWS MAY 28, 2020 / 6:02 AM / 2 MONTHS AGO

Reopening schools in Denmark did not worsen outbreak, data shows

Medical News & Perspectives

July 9, 2020

School Superintendents Confront COVID-19—"There Are No Good Options for Next Year"

Rita Rubin, MA

JAMA. Published online July 9, 2020. doi:10.1001/jama.2020.12575

Europe

Reopened schools in Europe and Asia have largely avoided coronavirus outbreaks. They have lessons for the U.S.

Objectives

- Review recent literature regarding the role of children in transmission of SARS-CoV-2 and the impact of school reopening on communities
- Discuss implications for the 2020-21 school year

The role of children in transmission of SARS-CoV-2

PEDIATRICS

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS

COVID-19 in Children and the Dynamics of Infection in Families

Klara M. Posfay-Barbe, MD, Noemie Wagner, MD, Magali Gauthey, MD,

Dehlia Moussaoui, MD, Natasha Loevy, MD, Alessandro Diana, MD, Arnaud G. L'Huillier, MD

<https://archive-ouverte.unige.ch/unige:136712/ATTACHMENT01>

[J Glob Health](#). 2020 Jun; 10(1): 011101.

PMCID: PMC7323934

Published online 2020 Jun 29. doi: [10.7189/jogh.10.011101](https://doi.org/10.7189/jogh.10.011101)

PMID: [32612817](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/32612817/)

The role of children in transmission of SARS-CoV-2: A rapid review

[Xue Li](#),^{1,*} [Wei Xu](#),^{1,*} [Marshall Dozier](#),² [Yazhou He](#),¹ [Amir Kirolos](#),^{1,3} [Evropi Theodoratou](#),^{1,4} and on behalf of UNCOVER

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Associated Data

► [Supplementary Materials](#)

Abstract

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Background

Understanding the role of children in the transmission of SARS-CoV-2 is urgently required given its policy implications in relation to the reopening of schools and intergenerational contacts.

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7323934/>

Counterpoint: the role of children in transmission of SARS-CoV-2



Disclaimer: Early release articles are not considered as final versions. Any changes will be reflected in the online version in the month the article is officially released.

Volume 26, Number 10—October 2020

Dispatch

Contact Tracing during Coronavirus Disease Outbreak, South Korea, 2020

Young Joon Park¹, Young June Choe¹, Ok Park, Shin Young Park, Young-Man Kim, Jieun Kim, Sanghui Kweon, Yeonhee Woo, Jin Gwack, Seong Sun Kim, Jin Lee, Junghee Hyun, Boyeong Ryu, Yoon Suk Jang, Hwami Kim, Seung Hwan Shin, Seonju Yi, Sangeun Lee, Hee Kyoung Kim, Hyeyoung Lee, Yeowon Jin, Eunmi Park, Seung Woo Choi, Miyoung Kim, Jeongsuk Song, Si Won Choi, Dongwook Kim, Byoung-Hak Jeon, Hyosoon Yoo, Eun Kyeong Jeong✉, on behalf of the COVID-19 National Emergency Response Center, Epidemiology and Case Management Team

Author affiliations: Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Cheongju, South Korea; Young Joon Park, S.Y. Park, Y.-M. Kim, J. Kim, S. Kweon, Y. Woo, J. Gwack, S.S. Kim, J. Lee, J. Hyun, B. Ryu, S.H. Shin, S. Yi, S. Lee, H.K. Kim, H. Lee, Y. Jin, E. Park, S.W. Choi, M. Kim, J. Song, S.W. Choi

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[The Study](#)

[Conclusions](#)

Older Children Spread the Coronavirus Just as Much as Adults, Large Study Finds

The study of nearly 65,000 people in South Korea suggests that school reopenings will trigger more outbreaks.

Counterpoint: the role of children in transmission

Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (*MMWR*)

CDC



SARS-CoV-2 Transmission and Infection Among Attendees of an Overnight Camp — Georgia, June 2020

Weekly / August 7, 2020 / 69(31);1023–1025

On July 31, 2020, this report was posted online as an MMWR Early Release.

Christine M. Szablewski, DVM^{1,2}; Karen T. Chang, PhD^{2,3}; Marie M. Brown, MPH¹; Victoria T. Chu, MD^{2,3}; Anna R. Yousef, MD^{2,3}; Ndubuisi Anyalechi, MD¹; Peter A. Aryee, MBA¹; Hannah L. Kirking, MD²; Maranda Lumsden¹; Erin Mayweather¹; Clinton J. McDaniel, MPH²; Robert Montierth, PharmD²; Asfia Mohammed¹; Noah G. Schwartz, MD^{2,3}; Jaina A. Shah¹; Jacqueline E. Tate, PhD²; Emilio Dirlikov, PhD²; Cherie Drenzek, DVM¹; Tatiana M. Lanzieri, MD²; Rebekah J. Stewart, MSN, MPH² ([View author affiliations](#))

<https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/wr/mm6931e1.htm>

Summary & Limitations

- Data generally suggest to date that children aged under 10 are not significant drivers of the COVID-19 pandemic
- Older students in secondary/high schools have the potential for increased spread, especially if strong, consistent mitigation strategies are not in place
- Evidence is not clear on why children (particularly young children) are not linked to spread in the same way as other viral illness
 - Asymptomatic and mild infection are common and may play a role
 - Impact of early school closures may limit the ability for children to be linked as index cases

Evidence of transmission within the school setting

> Clin Infect Dis. 2020 Jul 28;71(15):825-832. doi: 10.1093/cid/ciaa424.

Cluster of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in the French Alps, February 2020

Kostas Danis¹, Olivier Epaulard^{2 3 4}, Thomas Bé
, Elisabeth Botelho-Nevers^{8 9}, Maude Bouscamb
Ader¹⁰, Alexandra Mailles¹, Zoubida Boudalaa⁷
, Emmanuel Forestier¹², Caroline Landelle^{13 14},
Berthelot^{8 9}, Raphael Veil¹⁵, Daniel Levy-Bruhl
Coignard¹, Christine Saura⁵, Investigation Team

Collaborators, Affiliations + expand

PMID: 32277759 PMID: PMC7184384 DOI: 10.

[Free PMC article](#)

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/32277759/>

COVID-19 in schools and early childhood education and care services – the Term 2 experience in NSW

Prepared by the National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance (NCIRS)
31 July 2020

Overview

- This report provides an overview of investigation into all COVID-19 cases in the state of New South Wales (NSW), Australia in all schools and early childhood education and care (ECEC) services between 10 April 2020 and 3 July 2020 (school term 2 of the academic year).
- 6 individuals (4 students and 2 staff members) from 6 educational settings (5 schools and 1 ECEC service) were confirmed as primary COVID-19 cases who had an opportunity to transmit the SARS-CoV-2 virus to others in their school or ECEC service.
- 521 individuals (459 students and 62 staff members) were identified as close contacts of these primary 6 cases.
- No secondary cases were reported in any of the 6 educational settings.
- In Term 2 no student or staff member contracted COVID-19 from a school or ECEC setting.
- For details on Term 1 data refer to NCIRS report [here](#) or publication in The Lancet Child and Adolescent Health [here](#).

http://ncirs.org.au/sites/default/files/2020-08/COVID-19%20Transmission%20in%20educational%20settings%20in%20NSW%20Term%202%20report_0.pdf

Counterpoint: transmission within the school setting

Rapid communication

A large COVID-19 outbreak in a high school 10 days after schools' reopening, Israel, May 2020 |

Chen Stein-Zamir^{1,2}, Nitza Abramson¹, Hanna Shoob¹, Erez Libal³, Menachem Bitan⁴, Tanya Cardash⁵, Refael Cayam⁶, Ian Miskin³

 View Affiliations

 View Citation

<https://www.eurosurveillance.org/content/10.2807/1560-7917.ES.2020.25.29.2001352>

When Covid Subsided, Israel Reopened Its Schools. It Didn't Go Well.

As countries consider back-to-school strategies for the fall, a coronavirus outbreak at a Jerusalem high school offers a cautionary tale.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/08/04/world/middleeast/coronavirus-israel-schools-reopen.html>

The impact of reopening schools on transmission in the community

Summary of School Re-Opening Models and Implementation Approaches During the COVID 19 Pandemic July 6, 2020

COVID-19 Literature Report Team:

Brandon L. Guthrie PhD, Diana M. Tordoff MPH, Julianne Meisner BVM&S MS,
Lorenzo Tolentino BS, Wenwen Jiang MPH, Sherrilyne Fuller PhD FACMI, Dylan Green MPH, and
Diana Loudon MLib, Jennifer M. Ross MD MPH

Schools closed in many countries for some period of time during the COVID-19 pandemic as part of mitigation efforts to reduce transmission of SARS-CoV-2. Currently, a number of countries have fully or partially re-opened schools or are in the process of doing so.

This document is a brief summary of the models and implementation approaches to re-opening schools that focuses on the approaches used in 15 countries for which we were able to identify data. This is not a comprehensive survey of the models used in all countries that have re-opened schools. Our systematic search of the published and pre-print literature yielded very few articles that address this topic and so this summary relies heavily on news articles and “grey literature” sources. It includes news articles, manuscripts published in peer-reviewed journals or on pre-print servers, and other resources identified through July 6, 2020. References that appeared in the daily COVID-19 Literature Report (Lit Rep) are marked with an asterisk*, and the summary is shown in the annotated bibliography below.

Considerations for opening schools

The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDICINE

MEDICINE AND SOCIETY

Debra Malina, Ph.D., *Editor*

Reopening Primary Schools during the Pandemic

Meira Levinson, D.Phil., Muge Cevik, M.D., and Marc Lipsitch, D.Phil.

For the past 6 months, policymakers and the U.S. public have weighed economic against public health considerations in debating what limits to set on individual and collective behaviors in attempting to control the Covid-19 pandemic. As fall approaches, attention has turned to a third pillar of a pandemic-resilient society: schools.¹ Under ordinary circumstances, about 40 million children would be entering prekindergarten through 8th-grade classrooms this year, including nearly 27 million students in grades pre-K through 5.^{2,3} Until these children physically return to school full time, many will lose out on essential educational, social, and developmental benefits; neither the economy nor the health care system will be able to return to full strength given parents' caretaking responsibilities⁴; and

however, we believe that primary schools should be recognized as essential services — and school personnel as essential workers — and that school reopening plans should be developed and financed accordingly. (We also believe that fully reopening schools for middle and high school students should be a national priority, but given the more challenging transmission dynamics at older ages, we confine ourselves here to elementary schools.)

WHY IN-PERSON SCHOOLING MATTERS

Children miss out on essential academic and social-emotional learning, formative relationships with peers and adults, opportunities for play, and other developmental necessities when they are

Tying it together: Safe Learning Plan for the 2020-21 School Year

1. Prioritize the safety of students and staff.
2. Prioritize in-person learning, especially for younger learners and those with most need.
3. Recognize differences in potential spread among different ages.
4. Support planning, while permitting flexibility for districts.
5. Take into account disease prevalence at a local level.



Adjusting after school reopening

- Monitoring for cases, patterns of illness
 - Rapid notification & contact tracing
 - Exclusion of close contacts
 - Testing
- The role of county level data

Closing thoughts

- Keen situational awareness is critical.
- Maintain flexibility and readiness to adapt to change.
- Commit to a spirit of partnership.

Thank You!

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