

What the experts say: Coronavirus and child health

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While the prevalence of COVID-19 is not as high among children, their caseload is rising. As more young people become infected, what do we know about the impact of COVID-19 on their health? In the week the world hit the grim milestones of 1 million deaths and over 33 million cases, we asked the experts about COVID-19 and child health.

Even with a vaccine, COVID may be here to stay.

The crisis is showing no signs of abating. Containing the virus will take an array of actions, including increased testing, preventive measures, and health care investment.

Collecting and sharing disaggregated data essential.

Initial modelling exercises have proven quite different from real time data monitoring. Collaboration and coordination across borders on responses and information sharing are key to better understanding the pandemic's evolution. Quality disaggregated data is imperative to successful public health responses.

Rapid, reliable testing is crucial to contain the virus.

To contain the virus, we need to know who is infected. The emergence of rapid, reliable, and non-invasive tests are a game changer to keep institutions and the economy open.

Keep health services open, no matter what.

Lessons from Ebola in West Africa highlight the need to keep routine health services open, including immunization and maternity services, even as case numbers rise.

WATCH THE RECORDING: [YOUTUBE.COM/UNICEFINNOCENTI](https://www.youtube.com/UNICEFINNOCENTI)



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This is just the beginning. COVID-19 may be this decade's HIV. If so, we will have to live with its impacts for a long time. This will have a huge effect on children in almost all dimensions of their lives – health, education, protection, and participation.

In the USA, more than 10% of cases are among children compared to just 2% in April.

Children can have a significant role in COVID transmission, as found in a new study from India.

Confusing messages on COVID and its impact create space for misunderstanding and mistrust. Trust must be built and rebuilt through evidence-based health messages and effective services.

Collective action and political will are urgently needed to put vulnerable people, including children and women, at the centre of our health response.

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