

Isolating children is not the answer to COVID 19

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Abstract

Long isolation period for suspected child cases was proposed based in one case. New evidence suggests that children are not as dangerous as they seemed, as a vehicle for this infection. We must cautious when making recommendations for a disease that affects millions of people, based on just one case.

Isolating children is not the answer to COVID 19

We have read with interest the paper by Lin et al [1], since there is still little information on how COVID19 develops in children.

After analyzing it, we have the impression that some of the conclusions can be considered somewhat risky.

In the case report presented by Lin, we did not find conclusive evidence to affirm without doubts, that the father was infected by his daughter. The father could have been infected 7 days earlier in Taiyuan, Shanxi province, or 6 days earlier on the bus to Xiangyang, Hubei.

On the other hand, recommending extending quarantine periods based on the observation of a single case seems, at least, somewhat hasty.

While we understand the anxiety of our Chinese colleagues in dealing with a hitherto unknown disease, considering the information now available we must be more cautious.

The advantages and disadvantages of social quarantines have been the subject of lively discussions that transcend the field of public health. The effects of massives lockdowns on the world's economies remain to be seen.

Furthermore, the effects of prolonged quarantines on children in societies used to freedom are yet to be measured, but they will surely have a striking impact.

Every day new evidence appears indicating that children are not as dangerous as they seemed, as a vehicle for this infection [2]

At this time of looking for answers, more than ever we have to be cautious when making recommendations for a disease that affects millions of people, based on just one case.

References

- [1] Lin J, Duan J, Tan T, Fu Z, Dai J. The isolation period should be longer: Lesson from a child infected with SARS-CoV-2 in Chongqing, China. *Pediatr Pulmonol* . 2020;55(6):E6-E9.
- [2] Munro APS, Faust SN. Children are not COVID-19 super spreaders: time to go back to school [published online ahead of print, 2020 May 5]. *Arch Dis Child* . 2020;archdischild-2020-319474.