

Newborns infected with COVID-19 in China experienced mild symptoms

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Researchers have identified a total of four cases of newborn babies with COVID-19 infection in China. In all cases the babies experienced only mild symptoms with none requiring intensive care or mechanical ventilation according to research published in in the *European Respiratory Journal* today.

The study was carried out by Dr. Zhi-Jiang Zhang and colleagues at Wuhan University in China. The team report that all four babies were born to mothers with COVID-19 and all were delivered by caesarean section. Three were separated from their mothers at birth.

The researchers say the rapid spread of the infection may mean there are

other cases of newborns with COVID-19 that they were not able to track down.

Dr. Zhang said: "COVID-19 is highly contagious and our study suggests that intrauterine transmission cannot be ruled out, but that the prognosis is good for both [pregnant women](#) and newborn babies."

Professor Tobias Welte is an infections expert from the European Respiratory Society and is a coordinator for the national German COVID-19 task force and was not involved in the study. He said: "It's important to protect pregnant women and newborn babies against infection. It's also important that any cases of COVID-19 in newborns are picked up, monitored and treated quickly and carefully. At this stage we still do not know whether there are any longer-term consequences of infection."

More information: Zhi-Jiang Zhang et al. Novel Coronavirus Infection in Newborn Babies Under 28 Days in China, *European Respiratory Journal* (2020). [DOI: 10.1183/13993003.00697-2020](https://doi.org/10.1183/13993003.00697-2020)

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