

# Pediatric COVID-19 symptoms differ from those seen in adults

June 15 2020

---



(HealthDay)—Clinical manifestations of COVID-19 in children differ

widely from adult cases, according to a review published online June 3 in *Pediatric Pulmonology*.

Tiago H. de Souza, M.D., Ph.D., from the State University of Campinas in Brazil, and colleagues conducted a systematic literature review to identify studies that describe the clinical, laboratorial, and radiological characteristics of [children](#) with COVID-19.

The researchers identified 38 studies (1,124 cases) and found that 14.2 percent of children were asymptomatic, 36.3 percent had [mild symptoms](#), 46.0 percent had moderate symptoms, 2.1 percent had [severe symptoms](#), and 1.2 percent of cases were critical. Fever was the most common [symptom](#) (47.5 percent), followed by cough (41.5 percent), nasal symptoms (11.2 percent), diarrhea (8.1 percent), and nausea/vomiting (7.1 percent). Pneumonia was diagnosed in 36.9 percent of children, while 10.9 percent were diagnosed with upper airway infections. Just over one in 10 children had a reduced lymphocyte count (12.9 percent). Nearly two-thirds of cases exhibited abnormalities on computed tomography (63 percent), including ground glass opacities, patchy shadows, and consolidations. Only one death was reported.

"The vast majority of children with COVID-19 have a favorable clinical course and their [clinical manifestations](#) differ widely from adult cases. Fever and respiratory symptoms should not be considered a hallmark of COVID-19 in children," the authors write. "Therefore, pediatricians should have a high level of clinical suspicion to diagnose children infected with severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2, as the majority of pediatric cases are asymptomatic or mild."

**More information:** [Abstract/Full Text \(subscription or payment may be required\)](#)

Copyright © 2020 [HealthDay](#). All rights reserved.

Citation: Pediatric COVID-19 symptoms differ from those seen in adults (2020, June 15)  
retrieved 30 December 2022 from

<https://medicalxpress.com/news/2020-06-pediatric-covid-symptoms-differ-adults.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.