COVID-19 in Children Update

Ann Thomas, MD, MPH
Senior Health Advisor

Oregon Healthy Early Learning Council
August 25, 2020
Overview

• Do children spread COVID-19?

• New study in childcare

• Updated Oregon data
Spread of COVID-19 in children: Viral levels

- Studies of children in Boston and Chicago found that levels of virus in the nose and throats of children was just as high as in adults, even if they did not have symptoms.

- Highest levels of virus in children two days after they developed symptoms.

- Highest levels found in children under age 5.

Spread of COVID-19 in children: How often do they spread?

Children with COVID-19 spread to 5%-22% of their contacts.

4%-7% of children who are exposed to someone with COVID-19 develop infection.
Spread of COVID-19 in childcare

- Childcare programs in Rhode Island re-opened 6/1, first with max of 12 children in a cohort, then expanded to 20 children on 6/29
- By end of July, 666 facilities were open

- Between 6/1-7/30, identified 52 cases of COVID-19
  - 30 (58%) in kids, average age 5 years
  - 22 (42%) in adults, 20 teachers and 2 parents

- 29 childcare programs involved
  - 20 (69%) had only one case with no spread
  - 5 had more cases but spread did not happen in facility
  - Only 4 had spread in the facility

## COVID-19 in children in Oregon

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Cases</th>
<th>% of total cases</th>
<th># Hospitalized</th>
<th>% Hospitalized</th>
<th>Deaths</th>
<th>% who died</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-9</td>
<td>1,086</td>
<td>4.6%</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>1.8%</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-19</td>
<td>2,398</td>
<td>10.2%</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20-29</td>
<td>5,052</td>
<td>21.5%</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Fewer cases in young children compared to teens, young adults
- Tends to be mild, often asymptomatic
- Few hospitalizations, no deaths
Cases in children by county, Oregon  
Feb 28- August 20, 2020 (n=2,797)
Cases of COVID-19 in children, Oregon, Feb 28- August 20, 2020

The plot of sum of Number of Records for Onset Day. The view is filtered on Onset Day, which ranges from March 2, 2020 to August 22, 2020.
Summary

• In general, COVID-19 is less common in children, although once they are infected they are certainly capable of spreading it to other children and adults.

• In Rhode Island, where spread in child care was low, all adults working in childcare were required to wear face masks from the beginning of June when child care first re-opened in the state.

• The keys to keeping childcare safe:
  – wearing of masks by adults, limiting mixing between established student-teacher groups, staying home when ill, and cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched surfaces.
Thank you.