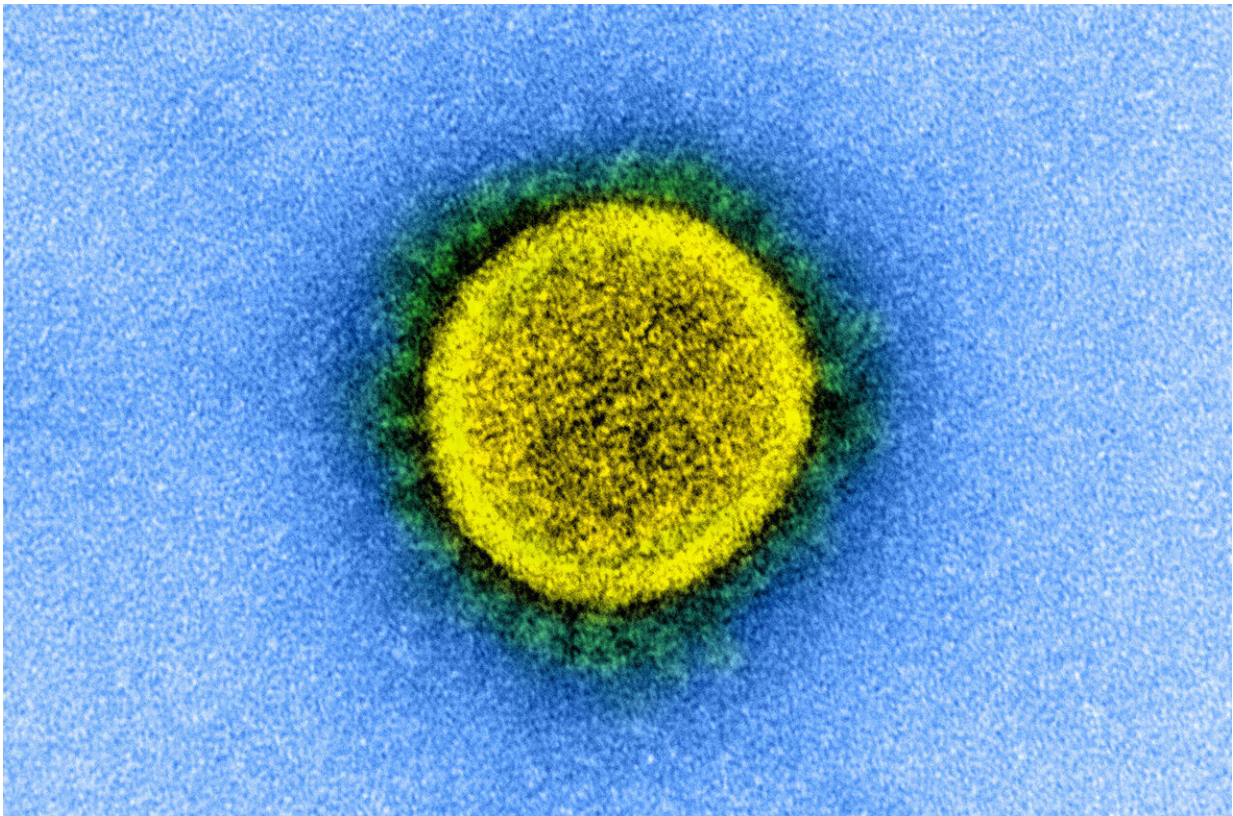


Study reports patient-reported loss of smell in 86% of mild COVID-19 cases

January 6 2021



SARS-CoV-2 (shown here in an electron microscopy image). Credit: National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, NIH

A reduced sense of smell, or olfactory dysfunction, is one of the most common symptoms of COVID-19. A recent study published the *Journal*

of Internal Medicine has examined its prevalence and recovery in patients with varying degrees of severity of COVID-19.

In the study of 2,581 patients from 18 European hospitals, the patient-reported prevalence of [olfactory dysfunction](#) was 85.9% in mild cases of COVID-19, 4.5% in moderate cases, and 6.9% in severe-to-critical cases. The average duration of olfactory dysfunction reported by patients was 21.6 days, but nearly one-quarter of affected patients reported that they did not recover their [sense of smell](#) 60 days after losing it.

Objective clinical evaluations identified olfactory dysfunction in 54.7% of mild cases of COVID-19 and 36.6% of moderate-to-critical cases of COVID-19. At 60 days and 6 months, 15.3% and 4.7% of these patients did not objectively recover their sense of smell, respectively.

"Olfactory dysfunction is more prevalent in mild COVID-19 forms than in moderate-to-critical forms, and 95% of [patients](#) recover their sense of smell at 6-months post-infection," said lead author Jerome R. Lechien, MD, Ph.D., MS, of Paris Saclay University.

More information: *Journal of Internal Medicine* (2021). [DOI: 10.1111/joim.13209](#)

Provided by Wiley

Citation: Study reports patient-reported loss of smell in 86% of mild COVID-19 cases (2021, January 6) retrieved 18 April 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2021-01-patient-reported-loss-mild-covid-cases.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.