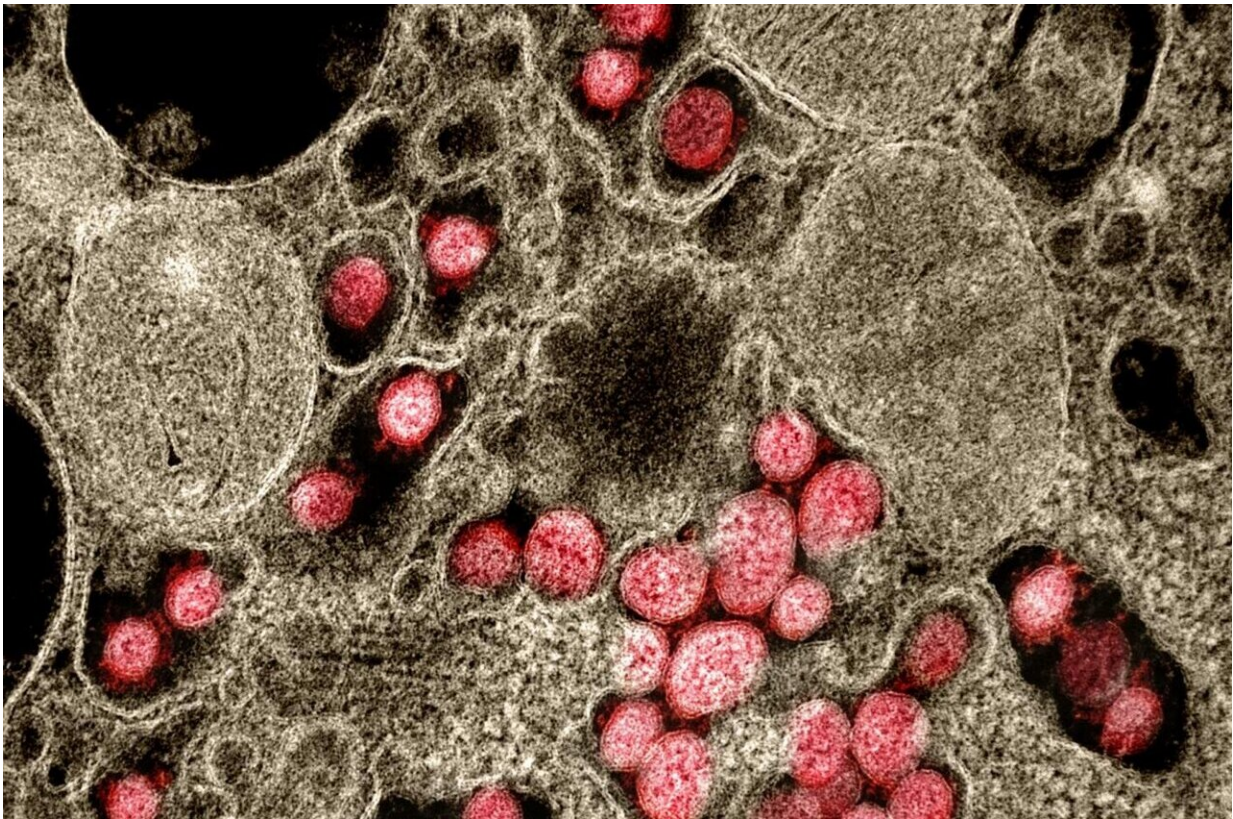


COVID-19: Majority of infected children may not show typical symptoms

May 13 2021



Transmission electron micrograph of SARS-CoV-2 virus particles isolated from a patient. Credit: NIAID

The majority of children infected with SARS-CoV-2 may not show typical symptoms such as fever, cough or shortness of breath, according

to a study published in *Scientific Reports*, which examined data on 12,306 children with laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 across the United States.

Pakaj Arora and colleagues found that 18.8% of the children included in the study were recorded as having symptoms such as fever, malaise, muscle or joint pain, and disturbances of smell or taste. . 16.5% of children had respiratory symptoms including cough and [shortness of breath](#), 13.9% had [gastrointestinal symptoms](#) such as nausea, vomiting and diarrhea, 8.1% had dermatological symptoms (rash), and 4.8% had headaches.

5.5% (672) of children included in the study were hospitalized. Of those, 118 (17.6%) and 38 (4.1%) required critical care services and [mechanical ventilation](#), respectively. The risk of hospitalization was similar between males and females, but higher in non-Hispanic Black and Hispanic children compared with non-Hispanic White children. The risk of requiring [critical care](#) and mechanical ventilation was similar across all groups.

The findings suggest that children and adolescents with COVID-19 may have a milder course of illness than adults, but disparities in severity appear to exist between non-Hispanic Black, Hispanic and non-Hispanic White children in the US. Given the high frequency of cases without typical symptoms, increased vigilance, innovative screening, and frequent testing may be required among school-going children and their immediate contacts as schools reopen. Implementation of these strategies may need to be enhanced among children from racial/ethnic minorities to curtail the existing COVID-19 related health disparities.

More information: A retrospective cohort study of 12,306 pediatric COVID-19 patients in the United States, *Scientific Reports* (2021). [DOI: 10.1038/s41598-021-89553-1](https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-021-89553-1)

Provided by Nature Publishing Group

Citation: COVID-19: Majority of infected children may not show typical symptoms (2021, May 13) retrieved 29 April 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2021-05-covid-majority-infected-children-typical.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.