

Higher incidence of SARS-CoV-2 infection in under 5s during omicron

April 1 2022



For children aged under 5, the incidence rate of severe acute respiratory

syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) infection was higher with the omicron variant versus the delta variant, according to a research letter published online April 1 in *JAMA Pediatrics*.

Lindsey Wang, from the Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine in Cleveland, and colleagues examined incidence rates of SARS-CoV-2 infection in three cohorts of children aged younger than 5 years with no prior SARS-CoV-2 infection: the omicron cohort (22,772 children), who contracted SARS-CoV-2 between Dec. 26, 2021, and Jan. 25, 2022; the delta cohort (66,692 children), who contracted SARS-CoV-2 between Sept. 1 and Nov. 15, 2021; and the delta2 cohort (10,496 children), who contracted SARS-CoV-2 between Nov. 16 and Nov. 30, 2021.

The researchers found that the monthly incidence rate of SARS-CoV-2 infections was mostly stable between September and November 2021 (1.0 to 1.5 cases per 1,000 persons/day), but increased to 2.4 to 5.6 cases per 1,000 persons/day in December 2021, coincident with omicron emergence. The monthly incidence rate of SARS-CoV-2 peaked at 8.6 and 8.2 cases per 1,000 persons/day in the first and second half of January 2022, respectively. Risks for severe clinical outcomes were significantly lower for children infected with [omicron variant](#) versus the matched delta cohort; the risks for severe clinical outcomes did not differ for the delta and delta2 cohorts.

"Study findings may inform risk-benefit considerations about in-person school attendance, mask use, and vaccination implementation for [young children](#)," the authors write.

More information: Lindsey Wang et al, Incidence Rates and Clinical Outcomes of SARS-CoV-2 Infection With the Omicron and Delta Variants in Children Younger Than 5 Years in the US, *JAMA Pediatrics* (2022). [DOI: 10.1001/jamapediatrics.2022.0945](https://doi.org/10.1001/jamapediatrics.2022.0945).

jamanetwork.com/journals/jamap.../fullarticle/2790793

© 2022 [HealthDay](#). All rights reserved.

Citation: Higher incidence of SARS-CoV-2 infection in under 5s during omicron (2022, April 1)
retrieved 6 May 2024 from

<https://medicalxpress.com/news/2022-04-higher-incidence-sars-cov-infection-5s.html>

<p>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.</p>
--