



Media Scanning & Verification Cell



Media alert from the Media Scanning & Verification Cell, IDSP-NCDC.

Alert ID	Publication Date	Reporting Date	Place Name	News Source/Publication Language
6806	24.06.2022	29.06.2022	Kochi Kerala	www.timesofindia.com/English https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/kochi/fever-cases-among-kids-on-the-rise-in-kochi/articleshowprint/92424493.cms
Title:	Fever cases among kids on the rise in Kochi, Kerala			
Action By CSU, IDSP -NCDC	Information communicated to DSU – Kochi, SSU- Kerala			

Back to school after two years, there has been an increase in fever cases among children here. Paediatricians in the city hospitals now see a 50% increase in paediatric OP, compared to pre-Covid times. During the initial Covid-19 waves, paediatricians hardly had any children with fever, cold or cough coming to the hospital or clinic.

The most affected now are children aged between 5 and 10. There is also an increase in Covid-19 cases among children but the majority of them have mild symptoms.

"Within four to five days of the schools reopening we started getting several children with fever and respiratory infections. No one is alarmingly sick and recover with symptomatic medications," said Dr Rekha Zacharias, secretary, Indian Academy of Paediatrics (IAP), Cochin branch.

According to IAP, most of the paediatricians in the city are seeing a 40% to 50% increase in outpatients, with cases higher among the younger children as older children still have a better immune system. However, pre-school or young children

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**Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP), National Centre for Disease Control,
Ministry Of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India**

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had a limited exposure to the environment and they went inside their houses due to Covid-19. "These children now mingle and don't wear masks properly," said Dr Zacharias.

According to experts, it is normal for a child to fall sick due to viral infection around seven to eight times a year, till the age of seven years. In schools and other playing areas, kids are exposed to various allergens such as pollen, dust, weed, viral infection among others and this manifests as, for instance, allergic cough.

"Within two weeks of school reopening we have seen a daily increase in pediatric patients in our OP from 60 to 150. Also there is an increase in ICU admission amongst children between the age of 5 and 10. They are not Covid positive but complain of fever, cough and breathlessness," said Dr Hafeez Rahman, chairman, Sunrise Hospital.

During monsoon, infectivity is higher but now in the Covid scenario, parents are also not willing to take chances and have heightened sensitivity towards even the common cold. Also with schools insisting that kids with cold and cough shouldn't come to school, parents approach a paediatrician for treatment as well as a medical certificate so that their ward doesn't miss classes. "This was expected during monsoon. But the situation is not alarming," said Dr S Sachidananda Kamath, former national president, IAP.

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