



The COVID-19 Pandemic and Child Welfare and Healthcare Systems: Impact and Lessons Learned for Future Policy Making

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Message from the Guest Editor

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a major impact on infants, children, and adolescents. Because the clinical course of SARS-CoV-2 is generally mild in young subjects, the major challenges in this age group were underestimated at the beginning of the pandemic. However, it has now become clear that timely research is necessary to guide healthcare and welfare politics to provide adequate vaccination and surveillance strategies for children and adolescents, clarify the somatic consequences such as PIMS and post-(long) COVID-19 symptoms, and assess the consequences of disease management measures such as social distancing, home schooling, or mask wearing for wellbeing and mental health of the next generation. The psychosocial burden on children and adolescents has to be quantified and effective measures to return to healthy lives and learn our lesson for future pandemic situations have to be based on solid evidence. Therefore, this Special Issue focuses on original data as well as reviews on the abovementioned topics.





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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Addressing the environmental and public health challenges requires engagement and collaboration among clinicians and public health researchers. Scientific discoveries and advances in this research field play a critical role in providing a rational basis for informed decision-making toward control and prevention of human diseases, especially the illnesses that are induced from environmental exposure to health hazards.

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