



## Unintended Consequences of the COVID-19 Pandemic, on the Health and Wellbeing of Children and Young People

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### Message from the Guest Editors

The COVID-19 pandemic, which emerged at the end of 2019, is having a global effect on health, wellbeing and the economy. Older people are more at risk of COVID-19 infection and death. However, there is emerging evidence that children and young adults may be at great risk of its unintended consequences. These include months if not years of lost schooling and social interaction at key periods of development, the disappearance of training opportunities and routes to employment and an increase in abuse and neglect of children during lockdown. The transference of health services and resources in reaction to the pandemic is likely to cause disruption to routine surveillance of child health and immunisation schedules, as well as maternity services and practices, and child and adolescent mental health services. Furthermore, existing disadvantages may be exacerbated, with the consequence being a widening health and educational inequality. The experience of lockdown differs widely depending on individual circumstances.





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## Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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