

IIMHL & IIDL Leadership Briefing XLIV

COVID-19 and Emerging Issues for Children and Young People

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Janet Peters

Introduction

In March 2020 IIMHL published a review of issues and resources related to the pandemic for children and youth.

This Briefing shows more recent national and state work across three countries that may be useful for all countries.

Australia

Victoria State Government: Health and Human Services: Children, youth and family services – coronavirus (COVID-19)

November 2020

This organisation has a page devoted to child and family services. There is extensive information related to a range of issues including:

- [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Plan for Family and Community Services](#)
- [Increasing support for vulnerable children and families during coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)
- [Practice advice to support young people in Care Services during coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)
- [Child protection: Information and advice for sector partners during coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)
- [Home and community care program for younger people](#)
- [Plan for care services \(out of home care\)](#)
- [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Frequently asked questions – care services](#)
- [Supporting young people in care services](#)
- [Early Parenting Centres \(EPCs\)](#)
- [New parents - advice for child and family services](#)
- [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Home Stretch initiative – information for workers](#)
- [Capacity for contingency/emergency placements](#)
- [Respite and in-home support guidance](#)

<https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/children-youth-and-family-services-coronavirus-covid-19>

Canada

Ontario Centre of Excellence for Child and Youth Mental Health (the Centre) and Children's Mental Health Ontario (CMHO): Transition to Virtual Care: An evaluation of changes to child and youth mental health service delivery in Ontario in response to COVID-19

September 2020

Our two organisations plus other sector partners, launched an evaluation study to learn about both the process of implementing virtual care during the COVID-19 pandemic as well as the impacts on clients and service providers.

Using a mixed methods approach, we surveyed 97 organizations and held interviews and focus groups with 13 agency leaders and 14 direct service providers. In addition, 192 respondents took part in a youth and family survey.

Based on the above findings, we offer several recommendations to support the integration of virtual care into current services as we continue to deal with the pandemic and plan for post-pandemic:

1. Offer virtual care as part of a menu of services.
2. Ensure accessibility of virtual care.
3. Consider how best to engage a greater number of diverse children, youth and families in virtual care.
4. Enhance staff training and support knowledge exchange.
5. Promote staff wellness and prevent fatigue from delivering virtual care.
6. Provide system-level guidance and oversight to ensure high quality virtual care.

[https://www.cymh.ca/en/projects/resources/covid-19/covid-19 transition to virtual care wcag.pdf](https://www.cymh.ca/en/projects/resources/covid-19/covid-19%20transition%20to%20virtual%20care%20wcag.pdf)

Scotland

Scottish Government: Coronavirus (COVID-19): impact of restrictions on children and young people - CRWIA - stage 3

10 November 2020

On 8 April 2020, the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child published a statement that expresses concern about the situation of children globally, particularly those in situations of vulnerability, due to the effects of the COVID-19. The Scottish Government recognises the need to embed human rights of the child in taking measures to tackle the public health threat posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

This Children's Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment (CRWIA) sets out the consideration given to children's rights and wellbeing for the latest COVID-19 restrictions to enable children and young people to live their lives as normally as possible, to reduce the impact on their health and wellbeing.

The Scottish Government outlines policy for children based on research and information from parents and children themselves.

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/crwia-stage-3-impact-covid19-restrictions-children-young-people-3/>

COVID-19 Education Recovery Group: children and young people infographic,

19th November 2020

This infographic provides an example of the weekly snapshot of current COVID-related data in relation to children and young people, and their associated workforce, such as the number of tests and positive cases reported, and the attendance and absence of both children and staff in childcare and school settings.

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/covid-19-education-recovery-group-children-and-young-people-infographic/>

UK

UK Trauma Council: Beyond the pandemic: Strategic priorities for responding to childhood trauma – a coronavirus pandemic briefing policy

(2020)

The UK Trauma Council suggests a focus on understanding the impact of trauma on children's development and wellbeing, and responding appropriately.

<https://uktraumacouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Coronavirus-CYP-and-Trauma-UKTC-Policy-Briefing-Sept-2020.pdf>

US

Kaiser Family Foundation: Children's Health and Well Being During the Coronavirus Pandemic

September 2020

This brief draws on published literature as well as pre-pandemic data from the National Survey of Children's Health and the National School-Based Health Care Census, recent survey data on experiences during the pandemic, data tracking the number of cases resulting from school openings, and preliminary reports based on claims data evaluating service utilization among Medicaid and CHIP child beneficiaries. Key findings include:

- Students who attend in person school face direct risks of contracting coronavirus, with early tracking documenting nearly 12,400 cases across 3,900 schools.
- Students who do not attend school in person also face health risks, including difficulty accessing health care services typically provided through school, social isolation, and limited physical activity.
- Both students attending and not attending in-person school may face emotional or behavioral challenges due to disruptions to routines as well as increases in parent stress and family hardship.
- Children are also experiencing consequences of the economic fallout of the pandemic, with at least 20 million children living in a household in which someone lost a job
- Parents may be delaying preventative and ongoing care for their children due to social distancing policies as well as concerns about exposure.

<https://www.kff.org/coronavirus-covid-19/issue-brief/childrens-health-and-well-being-during-the-coronavirus-pandemic/>