



UNIVERSITY
of York

RESEARCH



The
Martin House
RESEARCH CENTRE



**RISK OF SEVERE
ILLNESS IN
CHILDREN
FROM COVID-19**

MARTIN HOUSE RESEARCH CENTRE

The issue

COVID-19 infection is usually mild and asymptomatic in children, but we know some children have required admission to hospital with COVID-19. In order to guide families, clinicians and policy makers about future shielding policies, school attendance and vaccine prioritisation we assessed which children and young people were at risk of severe illness with COVID-19.

The research

We took a full population approach, bringing together data sources and clinical experts.

In England, 5830 children were admitted to hospital with COVID-19 and 251 went to PICU in the first year of the pandemic. Those from non-white ethnic groups and chronic conditions were more likely to go to intensive care. 61 children died after having a positive COVID-19 test; 25 of these children were deemed as having died from COVID-19 by clinical experts; 15 of these 25 children had a life-limiting condition and 13 had a complex neurodisability.

The outcome

Severe illness and death from COVID-19 is extremely rare in children and young people. Vulnerable groups have slightly higher risk, but even in these groups, risk remains very low. Established adult COVID-19 risks extend into children (age, non-white ethnicity, obesity, comorbidity).

Children at highest risk from COVID-19 are those known to be at risk from any winter virus or other illness e.g. those with complex disabilities and other health conditions.

Centre Director

Prof Lorna Fraser
**Department of Health
Sciences**


lorna.fraser@york.ac.uk

This project is funded by



Contact us:

Department of Health Sciences
Seebohm Rowntree Building
University of York
York, YO10 5DD
United Kingdom

Tel: **+44 (0)1904 321321**
Email: *mhrc@york.ac.uk*
 **UoYMHRC**

Published papers

<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41591-021-01627-9>

<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41591-021-01578-1>

Our research themes:

CREATIVITY | CULTURE AND COMMUNICATION | ENVIRONMENT SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCE | JUSTICE AND EQUALITY
HEALTH AND WELLBEING | RISK, EVIDENCE AND DECISION MAKING | TECHNOLOGIES FOR THE FUTURE