

Expert calls for schools to close in areas with community transmission

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Complacency about the vulnerability of children to COVID-19 infection and their ability to transmit the virus "cannot continue," and schools must not remain open for face-to-face teaching in the setting of ongoing community transmission, according to the author of an article published online today by the *Medical Journal of Australia*.

Dr. Zoë Hyde, from the Faculty of Health and Medical Services at the University of Western Australia, wrote that emerging international research shows [children](#) are similarly vulnerable to COVID-19 infection as [adults](#) and transmit the virus "to a meaningful degree."

"There is no reason to think that children are less likely to transmit the virus than adults," Dr. Hyde wrote.

"In a study of symptomatic people with mild to moderate COVID-19, the amount of viral RNA detected in the nasopharyngeal swabs of children aged 5-17 years was similar to that of adults. However, young children (

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