



Subject: Your email to [5.1.2e@ecdc.europa.eu](mailto:5.1.2e@ecdc.europa.eu) sent on 10 January 2021 at 10:46  
"Delaying routine vaccination after covid-19?"

Dear [5.1.2e](mailto:5.1.2e)

Thank you for your question. We cannot confirm the statement of your colleague that Slovenia has the highest incidence of MIS-C paediatric cases. EU/EEA Member States have reported very little data in this field (as of 19 January 2021 we have only five reported cases: two cases from Ireland and three cases from Norway). We would like to urge you to report your MIS-C cases in TESSy so that we can form a better picture of the situation in the EU/EEA countries.

We have discussed your question of delaying childhood vaccinations in children with probable or confirmed COVID-19 infection among the experts at the ECDC but also among an international working group of paediatric experts on MIS-C under WHO. We conclude that there is currently no evidence to support such a policy. To the best of our knowledge, no country recommends postponing routine childhood vaccinations in such cases.

Care should be taken not to vaccinate sick or febrile children, as per regular practice. If a child is a known confirmed COVID-19 case, it should be isolated per the respective national guidelines and their scheduled appointed for vaccination should be deferred for the period after their end of isolation to avoid transmission of COVID-19 in the healthcare setting (clinic or private practice or other immunization centre). Few very young children have been diagnosed with MIS-C, the median age of children who go on after SARS-CoV-2 infection to develop MIS-C is 7-10 years of age, which means they are not in the age group where most of the primary childhood vaccinations are administered.<sup>1,2,3</sup>

Deferrals of childhood vaccinations for longer periods of time will contribute to creating larger pockets of unvaccinated populations around the EU/EEA countries, susceptible to other vaccine preventable diseases (e.g. mumps or measles) potentially contributing to large outbreaks, therefore we would advise caution.

Similar advice is given by other national and international public health organisations. Please see the links below:

WHO Europe Office:

<https://www.euro.who.int/en/health-topics/disease-prevention/vaccines-and-immunization/q-and-a-on-vaccination-during-the-covid-19-pandemic>

WHO: Immunization in the context of COVID-19 pandemic-FAQ:

<https://apps.who.int/iris/handle/10665/331818>

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<sup>1</sup> Feldstein LR, et al Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in U.S. Children and Adolescents, NEJM, doi:10.1056/NEJMoa2021680

<sup>2</sup> Zou H, et al, Characteristics of pediatric multi-system inflammatory syndrome (PMIS) associated with COVID-19: a meta-analysis and insights into pathogenesis, Int J Infect Dis. 2021 Jan; 102: 319–326. doi: [10.1016/j.ijid.2020.11.145](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijid.2020.11.145)

<sup>3</sup> M. Ahmed et al., Multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children: A systematic review, EclinicalMedicine (2020), <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.eclinm.2020.100527>

CDC Atlanta:

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/parents/visit/vaccination-during-COVID-19.html>

If you or your colleagues in Slovenia would like to connect with the MIS-C working group, which is part of the Clinical Knowledge exchange network for COVID-19, feel free to write to the following colleagues in WHO- Geneva:

- [redacted] <[redacted]@who.int> ([redacted])
- [redacted] <[redacted]@who.int> [redacted]
- [redacted] <[redacted]@who.int> [redacted]

Feel free to contact us again for any questions.

Kind Regards,

[redacted]