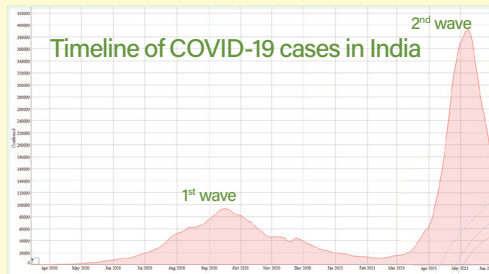


Will there be a 'Third Wave'?

Will our children be safe?

Pandemics are known to occur in waves. This current pandemic has had its first wave in Sept. 2020 and the second wave is still ongoing in May-June 2021.

There is a possibility of a third wave and maybe even a fourth or fifth wave; however, it is difficult for even epidemiologists and disease modellers to predict its timing and severity.



Source: SCTIMST, Kerala



<p>? Are children really at greater risk in the third wave as being discussed on social media these days?</p>	<p>Children are as susceptible as adults to acquire coronavirus infection, but not progress to severe COVID-19 disease. It is highly unlikely that the third wave will predominantly or exclusively affect children. They may also be affected just like anyone else.</p>
<p>? Are children likely to get severe disease as being seen in the adult population in the second wave?</p>	<p>Almost 90% of infections in children are asymptomatic or result in mild disease. The occurrence of severe disease is not high in children as per paediatricians.</p>
<p>? Does it mean that there is no possibility of severe disease in children in a subsequent wave?</p>	<p>Severe disease does occur in children; however, there is no evidence available which indicates that children with coronavirus infection will have severe disease in future waves.</p>
<p>? Is severe COVID-19 disease already occurring in children?</p>	<p>Children occasionally get severe disease and may even need ICU care, both during the acute illness and after 2-6 weeks, due to an immune condition 'Multi-system Inflammatory Syndrome in Children' (MIS-C) caused by COVID-19. However, the majority of affected children are likely to recover, if treated on time.</p>
<p>? What about vaccination for children?</p>	<p>Vaccination will certainly be made available for children in the near future, as and when required. Clinical trials to establish safety in different age groups are completed in a phased manner.</p>

Source: Indian Academy of Paediatrics 22 May 2021

COVID-Appropriate Behaviour protects children too!



#OneAgainstCovid