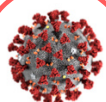




# Experiences of Covid-19

**#CovidUnder19: Life Under Coronavirus** is an initiative to meaningfully involve children in responses to the COVID-19 pandemic. 26,258 children from 137 countries across all five UN regions responded to our survey. More detail can be found at the end of this paper. This briefing presents findings that relate to their experiences of Covid-19.

## PERSONAL EXPERIENCE OF COVID-19



242

children across all age groups, said they had **CONTRACTED Covid19**.

1 in 5 of these children had a **DISABILITY**. The majority (8%) said they had another long term medical condition.

1 in 5 said they belonged to a **minority ETHNIC** community.

1008

children said that a **family members** had contracted Covid19.

in total, **1115** children had personal experience of Covid19 either **themselves, a family member, or both**.

12% of these children said they feel **LESS SAFE** now at home, or in the place where they live, compared with 8% of children with no experience of Covid19.

## ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE



25%

of children with experience of Covid19 and **21%** of children with **no** experience of Covid19 said that since Coronavirus began, they were now **LESS ABLE** to **ACCESS** the medical help they may need.

## PREVENTION & PROTECTION

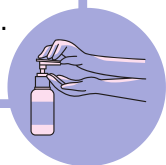
97%

of children with experience of Covid-19 said they had been taught to wash their hands with **SOAP** and **WATER** for 20 seconds, or use hand gel/sanitizer.

48%

said they have **access to more soap**, and **24% more water**, to wash with than they did before Coronavirus.

**1 in 5** of these children found it difficult to apply **SOCIAL DISTANCING** and avoid close contact with people outside of their immediate family, e.g. in shops and on public transport.



## IMPACT OF COVID19

*'We are likely to be experiencing worry, anxiety and fear and this can include the types of fear that are very similar to those experienced by adults, such as a fear of dying, a fear of relatives dying, or a fear of what it means to receive medical treatment.'* (Girl, 15 India)

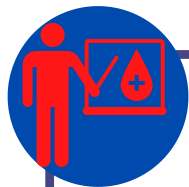
## COSTS AND ACCESS TO PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT



*'Some children can't afford to buy face masks which is bad. The government should provide face masks and other things to ensure children's safety during this time of corona virus. Face masks on the market are for adults and few being tailored are for children.'* (Girl, 15, Zambia)



# Experiences of Covid-19



CHILDREN IN THE SURVEY TOLD US THEY WOULD ADVISE GOVERNMENT TO;

## PROVIDE RELIABLE & ACCESSIBLE INFORMATION

*'Pay attention to what children see or hear on television, radio, or online. Consider reducing the amount of screen time focused on COVID-19...Provide information that is truthful and appropriate for the age and developmental level of the child. Talk to children about how some stories on COVID-19 on the Internet and social media may be based on rumors and inaccurate information. Children may misinterpret what they hear and can be frightened about something they do not understand. Teach children everyday actions to reduce the spread of germs. Remind children to wash their hands frequently and stay away from people who are coughing or sneezing or sick. Also, remind them to cough or sneeze into a tissue or their elbow, then throw the tissue into the trash.'*

(Boy, 17, Somaliland)

## PRIORITISE & INVEST IN HEALTH

*'Invest in food and health supplies (medicine, masks, hand sanitizer) to give them for free to families that cannot afford to buy some (especially because of being workless due to corona)'*

(Girl, 12, France)

*'Think of Children and teens before taking a decision. I know that in society politics and money influence more, and this is the reason why politicians do not see children, and only care about money.'*

(Youth, 17, Argentina)

*'We should not be forced to go in to school when it could risk people dying or their health being damaged. including us. they put money before they put people. its all economy this economy that, and we are still told to social distance but you can do anything that costs money but you cant do anything that is free like just go to a friends house or to the skate park.. they just want us to spend money and pretend to care about our health and not spreading the virus. they think we are stupid.. Also lots of kids have health conditions and just like old people everyone who is higher risk is being thrown under the bus.'*

*we are like collateral damage.'*

(Girl, 15, England)



## Initiative Co-leads



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**#CovidUnder19: Life Under Coronavirus** is an initiative to meaningfully involve children in responses to the COVID-19 pandemic. 26,258 children from 137 countries across all five UN regions responded to the survey.

All children have rights under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). #CovidUnder19 is a multi-stakeholder initiative that brings together children, civil society organisations, academia and other partners to work together in understanding children's experiences of their rights during the COVID19 pandemic. A goal of #CovidUnder19 is to create a space for children across the globe to be meaningfully involved in the discussions around issues triggered by the COVID19 pandemic and contribute towards shaping the post-COVID19 world.

On 28 May 2020, the initiative launched a global consultation survey to understand children's experiences of their rights under the coronavirus pandemic and their views on how their rights could be better realised. The survey applied the Centre for Children's Rights' innovative approach to rights-based research directly involving children and young people as advisors from the outset. The survey has been designed by child rights experts and 270 children from 26 countries. The survey was open until 31 July 2020. It was made available in 27 languages as well as an Easy Read version for children and young people with intellectual disabilities.

Children and young people contributed to data analysis and interpretation. Each thematic paper presents key findings. Data is disaggregated as far as possible and where findings are significant. Please note that the survey is not intended to be representative of the global child population. Findings are presented on a global basis.

For more information please contact [covidunder19@gmail.com](mailto:covidunder19@gmail.com)

The Centre for Children's Rights at Queen's University Belfast designed and conducted the survey and developed the thematic briefings in collaboration with Initiative partners and a team of child advisors. This was supported by an ESRC Impact Acceleration Account award through Queen's University Belfast