

Kathleen Logan

From: Amanda Kvalsvig <amanda.kvalsvig@otago.ac.nz>
Sent: Monday, 23 August 2021 5:22 PM
To: Kathleen Logan; Andrew Becroft; Leah Haines
Cc: Michael Baker; Jin Russell
Subject: Vaccine preventable diseases in childhood including Covid-19
Attachments: Kvalsvig_SARS-CoV-2 Delta variant and other VPDs_final.docx

[Attachment withheld under OIA s 18 (d) - it is or will be published, and the author, Dr Kvalsvig, may be contacted directly about it.]

Kia ora koutou

This email is to continue our earlier conversation about children and Covid-19; it's good to see that policymakers and media now recognise the importance of Covid-19 impacts on children.

Just before the current outbreak was detected, my paediatrician colleague Dr Jin Russell and I (with additional content from Michael Baker – thank you!) provided advice to the PMCSA and Ministry of Health about the rise in Delta variant cases in children overseas. I've attached the report (a rapid review) in case it's of interest to you also. As you can see this advice was provided a few days before the very welcome decision to vaccinate 12-15 year-olds. We'll rework the report as an editorial/perspective piece for wider dissemination.

We have another paper in the pipeline that might be a good one to discuss because it touches on UNCROC and the importance of children's voices in pandemic decisions, especially as children are still largely unvaccinated and will be carrying a lot of the risk if we 'open up' too soon. I know that bringing children into the national conversation is an important part of your work at OCC. There are equity issues that need to be highlighted as well: it's now clear from overseas research that Covid-19 outcomes are significantly worse for Indigenous children compared with non-Indigenous children, which is a worrying finding given existing health inequities in Aotearoa.

I'll leave it at that, and please do let us know how best to support your work.

Ngā mihi nui
Amanda

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