



Measures to Assist Children's Caregivers in Child Health Care during the COVID-19 Pandemic

Richard Hassall*

Department of Health Care, University of the Pacific, Stockton, California, USA

ABOUT THE STUDY

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on children's health and the delivery of pediatric health care. While children have generally had milder symptoms of the virus compared to adults, the pandemic has caused disruptions to routine care, increased stress for families and healthcare providers, and posed challenges in providing virtual care [1]. Additionally, the pandemic has highlighted existing disparities in access to pediatric healthcare for certain populations.

One of the major disruptions caused by the pandemic has been the cancellation or postponement of routine pediatric care, such as well-child visits and vaccinations. This has led to a backlog of appointments and a delay in the delivery of essential care for children. The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) has warned of the potential consequences of this disruption, including a decrease in vaccination rates and an increase in preventable illnesses. The AAP has also stressed the importance of continuing to provide routine care and vaccinations during the pandemic to prevent long-term health consequences for children [2].

The pandemic has also caused increased stress for families and healthcare providers. The sudden shift to virtual care and the need for social distancing has made it difficult for families to access care and for healthcare providers to provide care in the same way as before. Additionally, the uncertainty and fear surrounding the virus has led to increased anxiety and stress for both families and healthcare providers. The AAP has recommended that healthcare providers consider the emotional well-being of families and children during the pandemic and provide support as needed [3].

Providing virtual care for children during the pandemic has been a challenge for many healthcare providers. Virtual care may not be appropriate for all children, particularly those with complex medical conditions or developmental delays [4]. Additionally, not all families have access to the technology needed for virtual care, which can create disparities in access to care. The AAP has

recommended that healthcare providers consider the needs of each child and family when deciding whether to provide virtual care and ensure that appropriate technology and support are in place for families who need it.

The pandemic has also highlighted existing disparities in access to pediatric healthcare for certain populations. Children from low-income families and minority communities have been disproportionately affected by the pandemic and may have greater difficulty accessing care. Additionally, children with special health care needs may face additional barriers to accessing care during the pandemic [5]. The AAP has called for increased efforts to address these disparities and ensure that all children have access to the care they need during the pandemic.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on children's health and the delivery of pediatric care. The disruption of routine care, increased stress for families and healthcare providers, and challenges in providing virtual care have all had a negative impact on children's health. The pandemic has also highlighted existing disparities in access to pediatric healthcare for certain populations. It is important for healthcare providers to consider the needs of each child and family during the pandemic and to continue to provide essential care and vaccinations to prevent long-term health consequences for children. Additionally, efforts should be made to address existing disparities in access to pediatric healthcare to ensure that all children have access to the care they need during the pandemic.

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Correspondence to: Richard Hassall, Department of Health Care, University of the Pacific, Stockton, California, USA, E-mail: richardhassall@gmail.com

Received: 02-Jan-2023, Manuscript No. CMCH-22-19878; **Editor assigned:** 04-Jan-2023, PreQC No. CMCH-22-19878 (PQ); **Reviewed:** 18-Jan-2023, QC No CMCH-22-19878; **Revised:** 25-Jan-2023, Manuscript No. CMCH-22-19878 (R); **Published:** 01-Feb-2023. DOI: 10.35248/2090-7214.23.20.444.

Citation: Hassall R (2023) Measures to Assist Children's Caregivers in Child Health Care during the COVID-19 Pandemic. *Clinics Mother Child Health*. 20:444.

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