



PPS-PIDSP ADVISORY ON THE INCREASING CASES OF COVID-19 INFECTIONS

May 22, 2024

The Philippine Pediatric Society (PPS) and the Pediatric Infectious Disease Society of the Philippines (PIDSP) have observed an increase in COVID-19 infections in the country as reported by the Department of Health. While the current situation need not cause alarm, the PPS and PIDSP would like to remind the public of the recommended prevention measures and the importance of seeking early consultation. COVID-19 is mostly mild in the pediatric age group, however, some infants, children, and adolescents may still suffer from the disease and its complications, including severe COVID-19 pneumonia, long term sequelae of multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children (MIS-C), and post-acute COVID-19 syndrome (“long COVID”).

The following measures to prevent spread of infection are thus reiterated: proper wearing of masks, handwashing, adequate ventilation, as well as isolation and cough etiquette for those with symptoms. Early consultation should be done for patients with symptoms so that proper management and advice can be provided. Testing with rapid antigen test (RAT) and/or RT-PCR are recommended for symptomatic patients, especially those who are vulnerable to develop severe disease and who would benefit from prompt anti-viral treatment. Accurate case reporting and data gathering must also be done to discern an increase in cases, as well as preparation of health facilities to handle them. While no vaccinations for COVID-19 in children are currently available in the Philippines, we encourage immunizations for relevant respiratory infections especially influenza and pneumonia, which also tend to increase during this time.

We reiterate that while the current situation need not cause alarm, the PPS and PIDSP would like to emphasize the importance of prevention and readiness for COVID-19 in the country.