

WEBINAR **SERIES**



**Promoting
health throughout
the life-course
during the
COVID-19
pandemic**

**WEBINAR-3:
IMPACT OF PANDEMIC AND
LOCKDOWN ON ADOLESCENT
HEALTH AND WELLBEING**

**Health issues during
reopening of schools**



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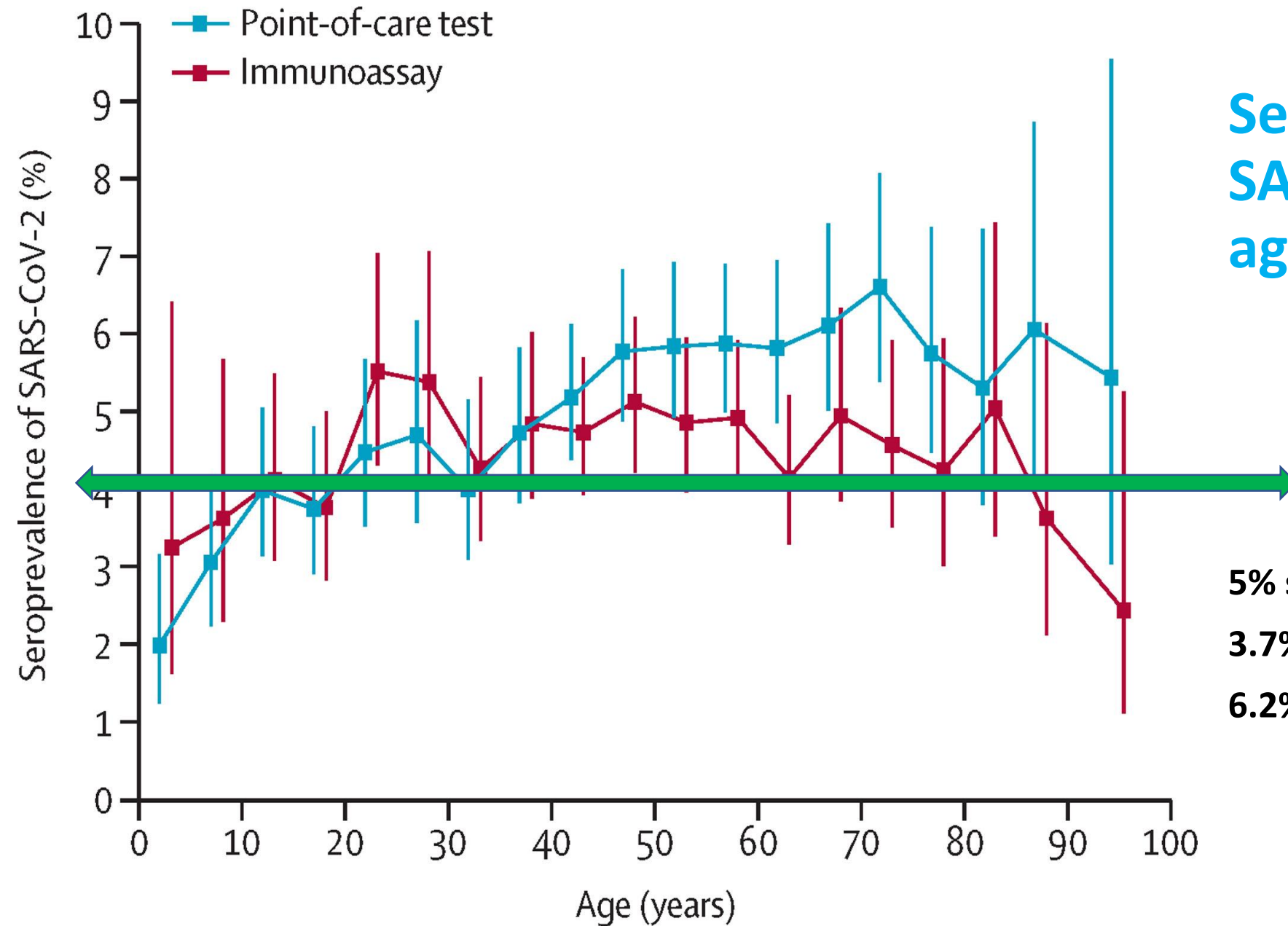
COVID Infection in adolescents

- Susceptibility to infection in children under 20 years is less than half of adults over 20*
- Lower odds of being infected (by 56%)**
- A smaller proportion become symptomatic*
 - 21% below the age of 20 increasing to 69% over 70 years
- Intensity of infection/viral load appears to influence severity
- Positivity rate for contacts of COVID positive adolescents was comparable to older ages***
 - Pose same risk in transmitting

*Nicholas GD et al: Age dependent effects in the transmission and control of COVID-19 epidemics. Nature medicine. June 2020

**Russel M Viner et al. Susceptibility to and transmission of COVID-19 amongst children and adolescents compared with adults: a systematic review and meta-analysis. BMJ (pre-print)

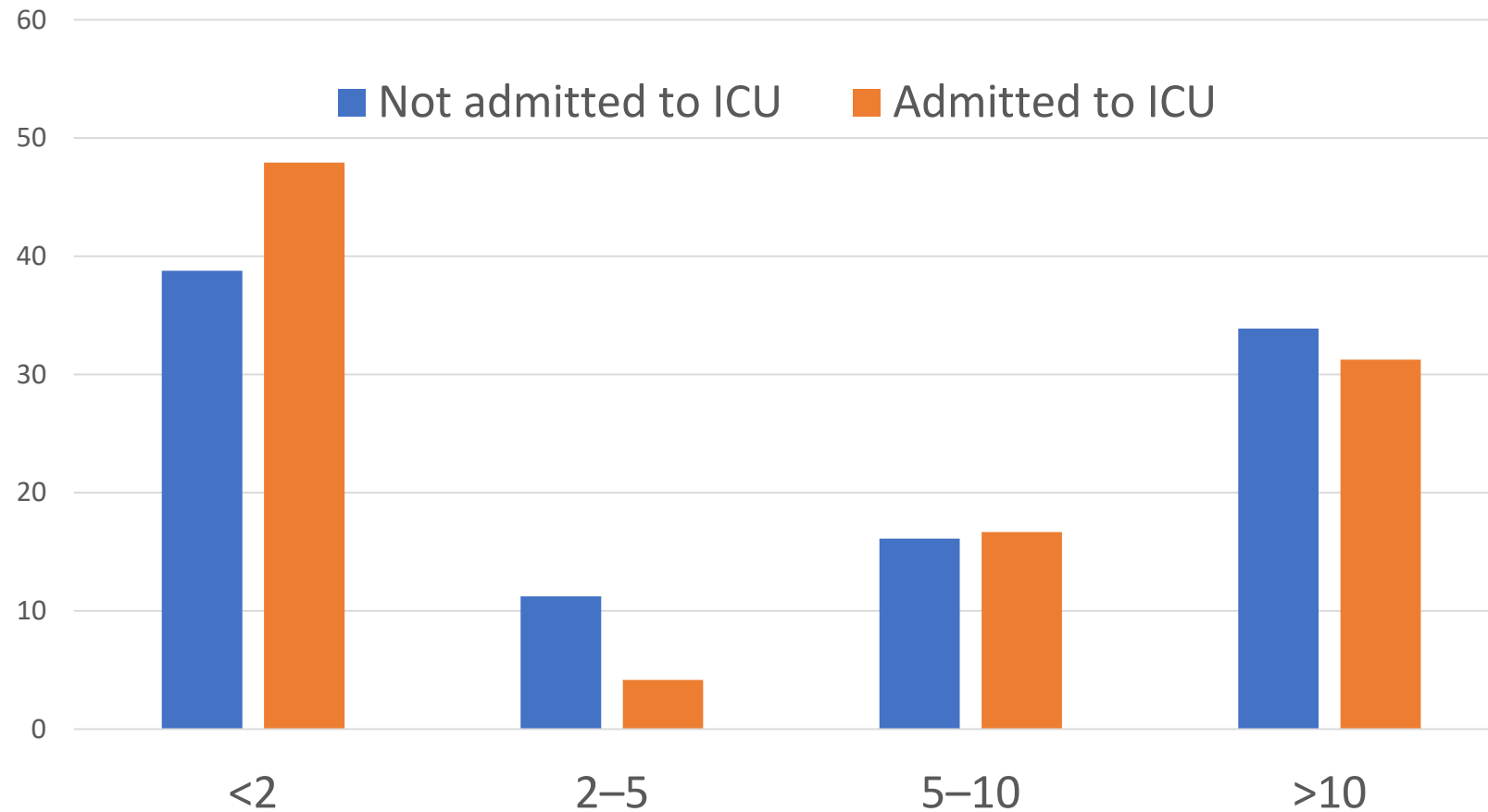
***Park YJ et al. Contact tracing during corona virus outbreak. Emerging infectious diseases. 2020 (26)



Seroprevalence of SARS-CoV-2 by age, Spain

5% sero prevalence nationally
3.7% both tests +ve
6.2% one test +ve

Disease severity in children-U shaped



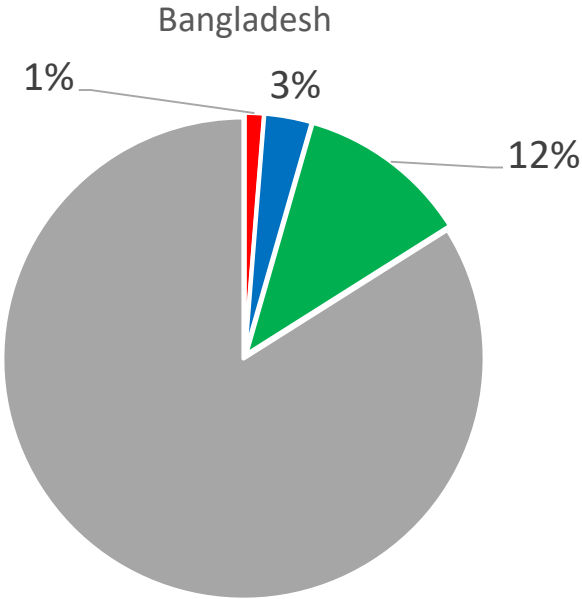
A multinational, multicentre cohort study of 582 children from 82 participating health care institutions across 25 European countries

NB: 363 required hospital admission and 48 were admitted to ICU

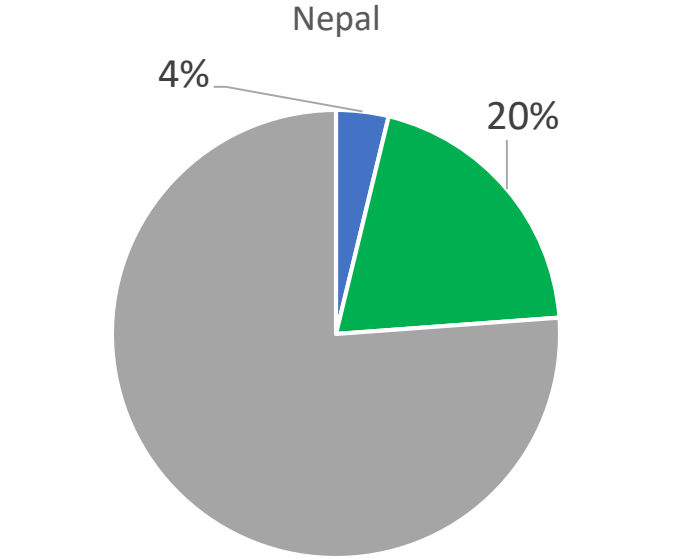
Adolescent case load in SA countries

Adolescents
account for a much
smaller proportion
of confirmed
COVID-19 cases

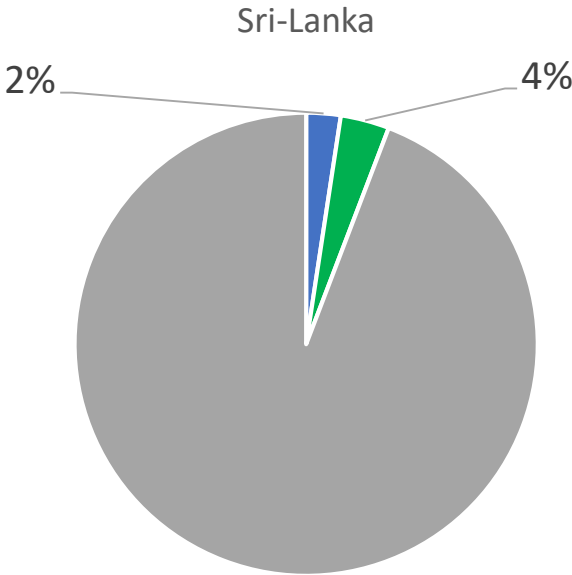
Confirmed COVID-19
cases, by age group
July 2020



■ Age 0-4 yrs ■ Age 5-14 yrs ■ Age 15-24 Yrs ■ Age 25 Yrs and above



■ Age 0-10 Yrs ■ Age 11-20 Yrs ■ Age 21 and above



■ Age 0-10 Yrs ■ Age 11-20 Yrs ■ Age 21 and above

Schools and COVID-19

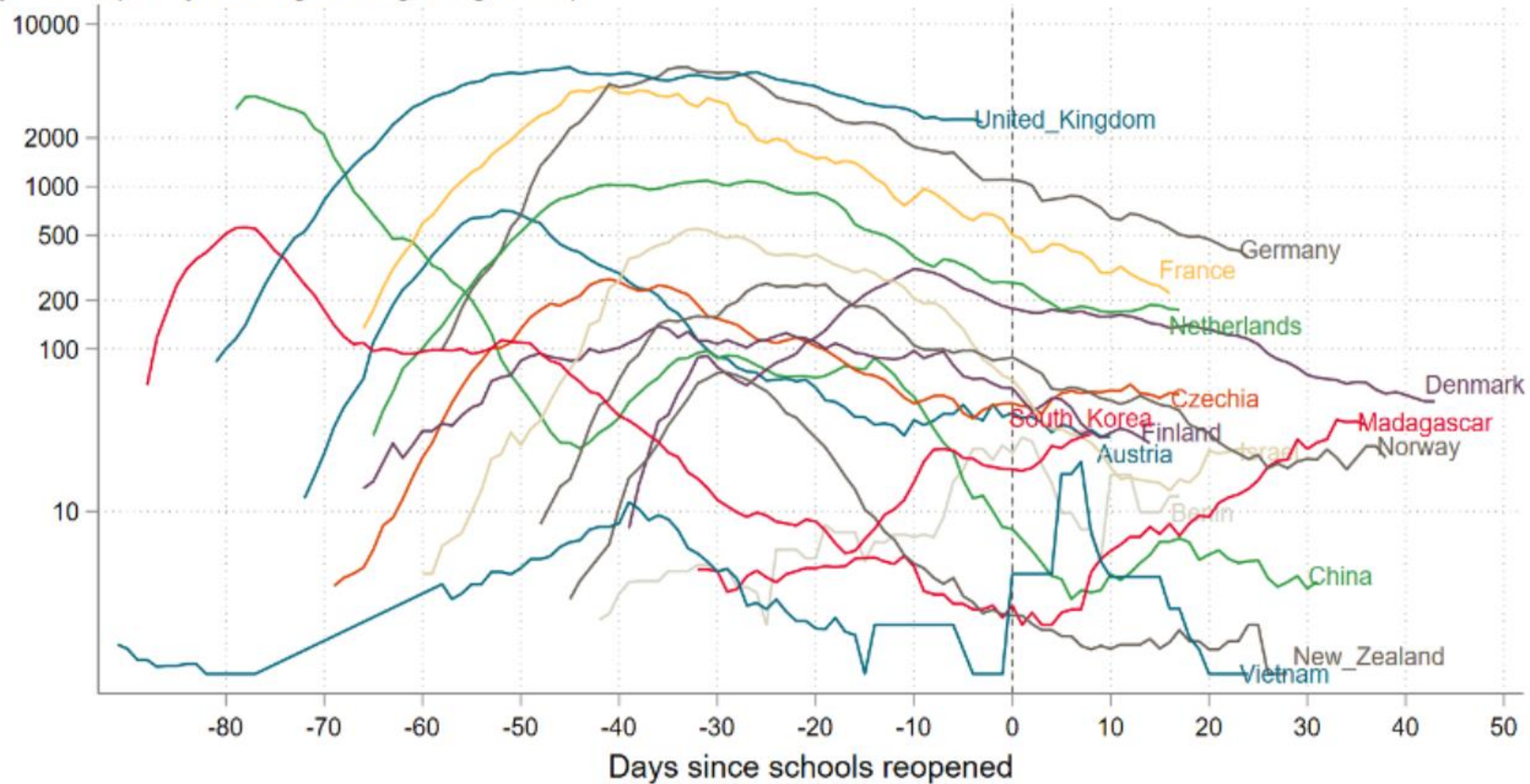
- With C-19 outbreaks-Quick closure of schools
 - With or without alternative methods
 - WIDENING INEQUITIES
 - No time to study and understand
 - Transmission rates not studied
- Recent data
 - Observational
 - Center for Global Development: Tracking school re-opening
 - Israel school outbreaks
 - USA: comparing schools closed with those that did not
 - Georgia: a case study in camps
 - Sweden: report on a minor outbreak in a school
 - Limited in scope and rigor



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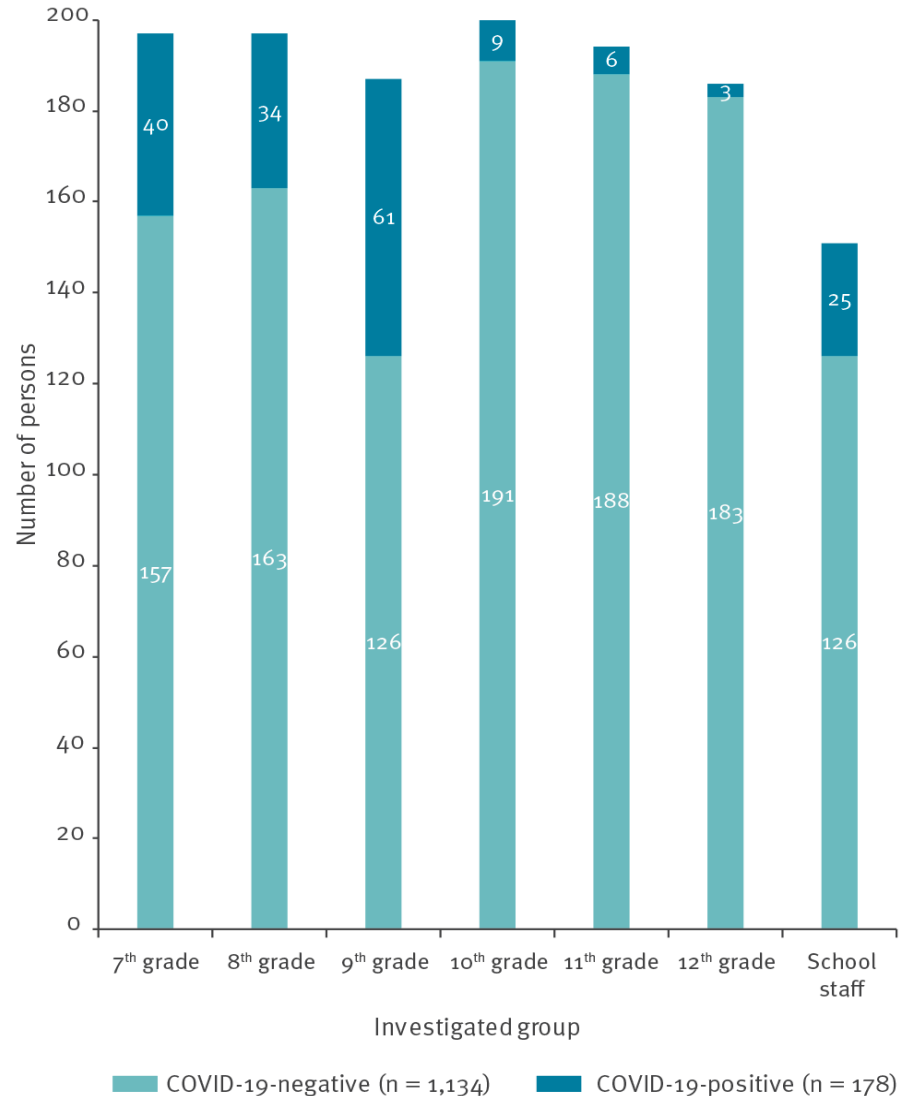
Daily new Cases in countries that have opened schools

Daily cases (7-day moving average, log scale)

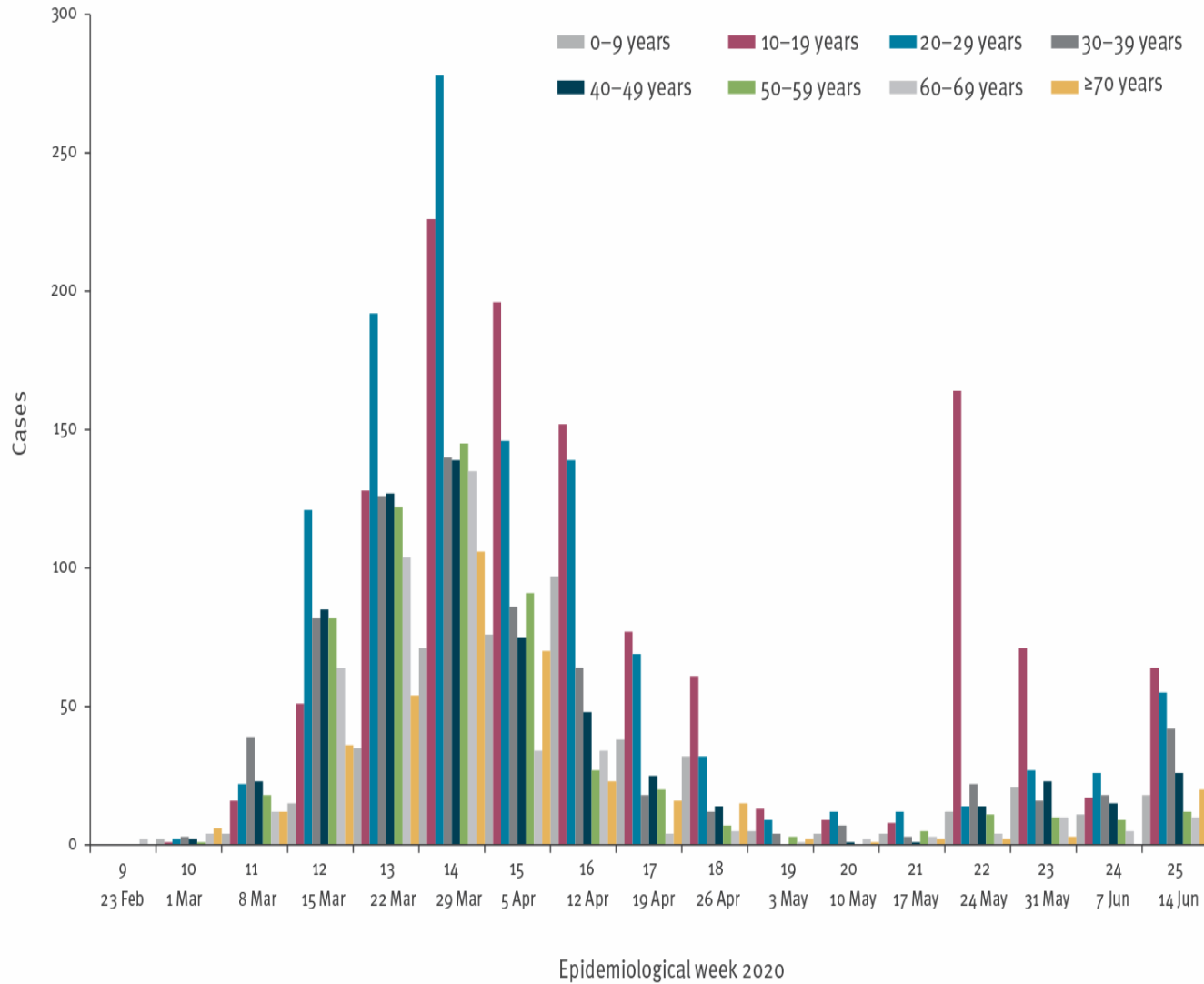


Israel: School Re-opening

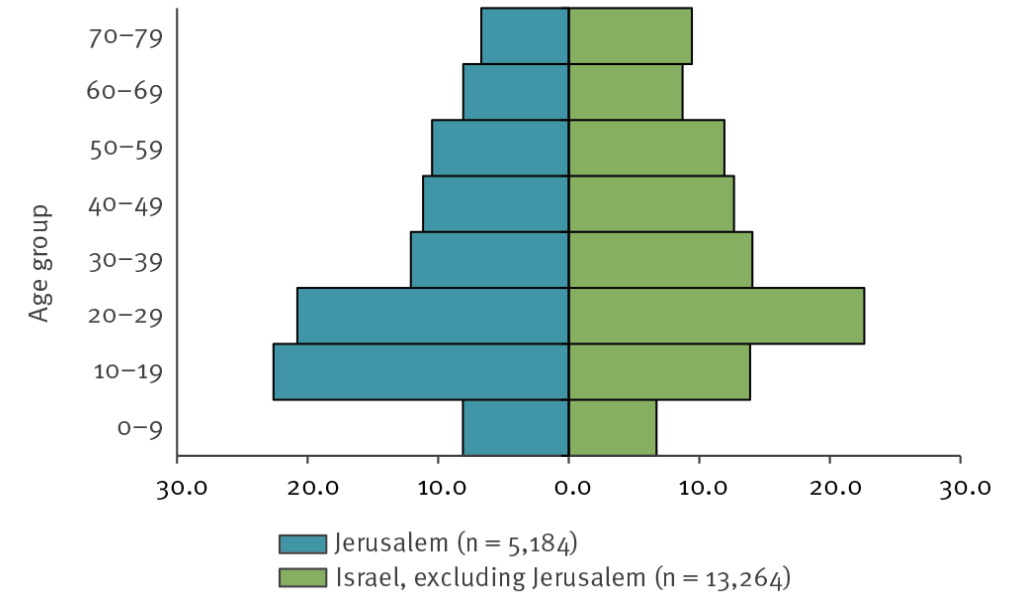
- Schools reopened with “preventive actions”
 - Daily health reports, Hygiene, Facemasks, Social distancing, Minimal interaction between classes
- Major outbreak after 10 days
 - Higher positivity in grade 9 and below (lower in 10-12)
- A lesson on:
 - *Pitfalls of reopening too soon*
 - *The safeguards that need to be in place prior to reopening*
 - *Crowding, face mask, air-conditioning style were not optimal*



Israel: School Re-opening



Cases in school age children increased (from 19.8% of cases to 40.1% of cases)



USA: comparison on schools

Time-scale analysis study between schools that remained open and schools that closed: nationwide

- Schools remaining open did have an impact on the incidence of COVID19 on the wider population
- School closure related to a significant decline in community transmission and COVID19 mortality (alongside other mitigation measures).
 - 62% reduction with schools closed

Advice on the use of masks for children in the community in the context of COVID-19

Annex to the Advice on the use of masks in the context of COVID-19

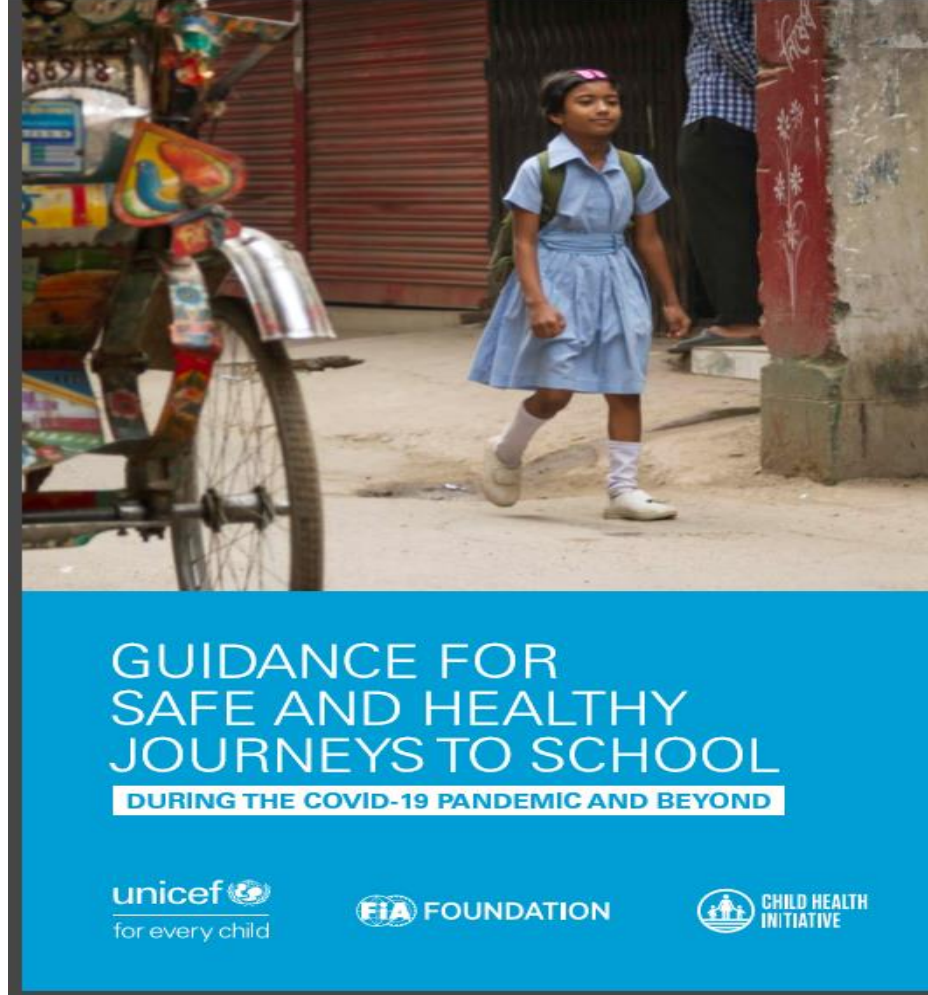
21 August 2020



Considerations for school-related public health measures in the context of COVID-19

Annex to Considerations in adjusting public health and social measures in the context of COVID-19

10 May 2020



GUIDANCE FOR SAFE AND HEALTHY JOURNEYS TO SCHOOL

Engage the entire school community early and often



Ensure physical distancing during school drop-off and pick-up



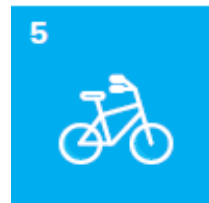
Prioritize active, non-organized transport to support physical distancing



Make it safe to walk, cycle, scoot and ride a wheelchair



Help students who cycle and scoot to follow protocols



Reduce private vehicle use



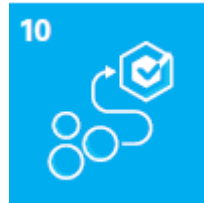
Treat school busses as extensions of the classroom



Promote safety and hygiene on public and shared transport



Ensure equal access to marginalized populations



Sustain changes in the long term

Re-opening schools: UNICEF

- Prioritize planning and actions to safely reopen schools
 - Local decision: learning, health, nutrition, protection
 - Best interest of the child and public health considerations
- Equitable access to essential services for children's protection and well-being, and continuity of learning
 - Till schools re-open
- When schools do reopen, we cannot return to business-as-usual

School Re-opening checklist-ROSA

- National/sub-national actions
 - Before school reopening: decision and policies on safe re-opening and preparations
 - After school re-opening: Communication, monitoring and accountability
- School level actions
 - Before re-opening: decisions and preparations
 - After school reopening: safe operations
- Technical guidance on school-level activities
 - WASH
 - Public Health
 - RCCE and advocacy
 - School-feeding
 - Child protection
 - Gender, disability, most marginalized/vulnerable groups
 - Schools used in emergencies



Reducing Risk of Infection: Measures for school re-opening



✓ Mask Use

✓ Physical distancing

✓ WASH
facilities and
hand hygiene



✓ Screening and management



WHO. Advice on the use of masks for children in the community in the context of COVID-19. Annex to the Advice on the use of masks in the context of COVID-19; 21 August 2020

WHO. Considerations for school-related public health measures in the context of COVID-19. Annex to Considerations in adjusting public health and social measures in the context of COVID-19; 10 May 2020

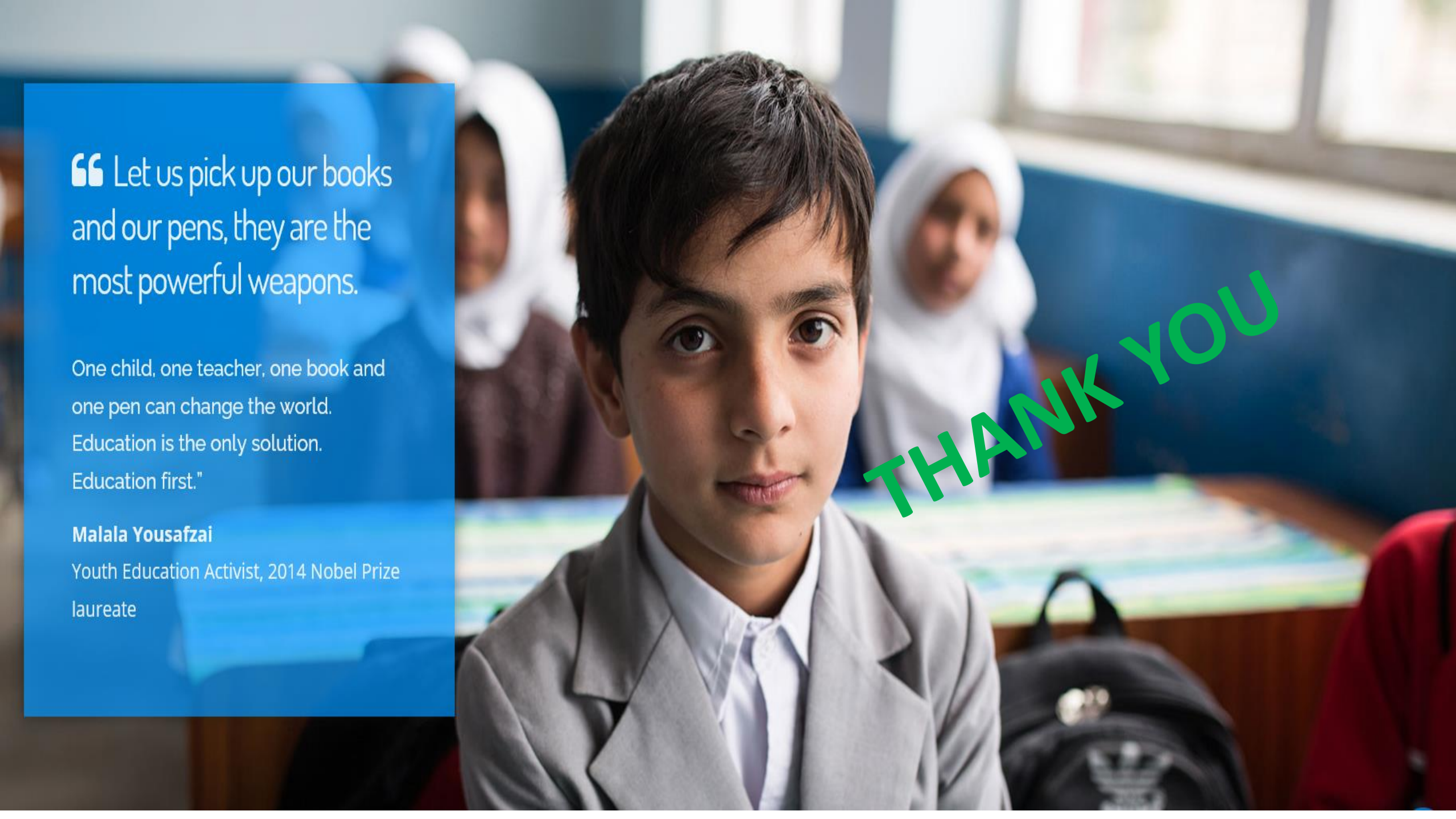
Reducing Risk of Infection: Measures for school re-opening

- ❖ Communication with school community
 - ❖ Continuous/consistent
 - ❖ Local strategy/transmission trend
- ❖ Targeted closures
 - ❖ Children of HCWs and other essential workers
- ❖ Special considerations
 - ❖ Co-morbidities
 - ❖ Disability/marginalized



Conclusions

- Schools are important for health
- Reopen schools safely
 - Cognizant of risk and mitigation strategies to protect children, teachers, and families
- Adapt plans based on local transmission
- Enable schools for safe-opening (FUND!)
 - We cannot rebuild or refit schools, we must improvise
 - WASH provisions are greatest priority



“ Let us pick up our books
and our pens, they are the
most powerful weapons.

One child, one teacher, one book and
one pen can change the world.
Education is the only solution.
Education first.”

Malala Yousafzai

Youth Education Activist, 2014 Nobel Prize
laureate

THANK YOU