

COVID-19 in children and the role of schools

Children and COVID-19

Last available scientific evidence has shown that children do not play a more significant role in COVID-19 transmission than adults.

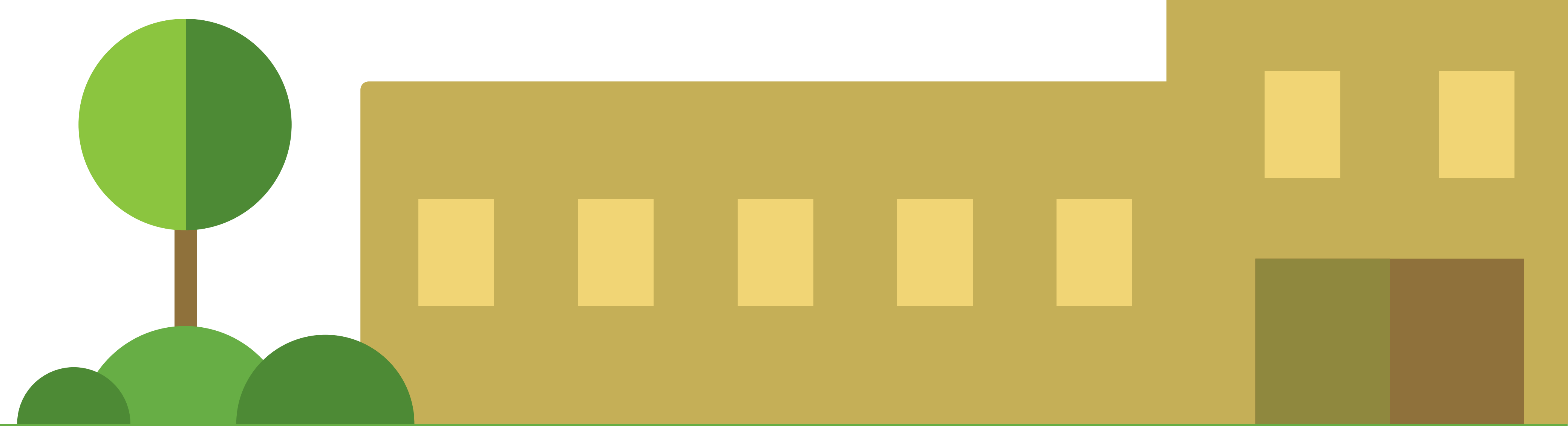
However, they tend to be asymptomatic or develop only a mild infection, which makes it harder to detect or diagnose. At present, it remains unclear how infectious asymptomatic children are.



Schools - open for business

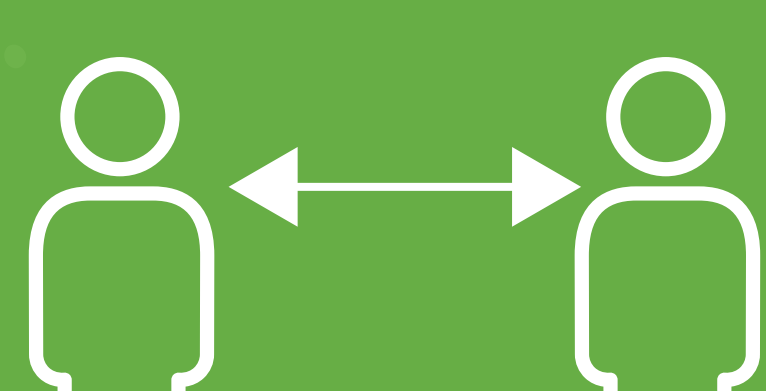
Schools are an essential part of society and children's lives. Closing schools should always be a last resort in efforts to control a pandemic.

If proper and consistent measures are in place, schools do not pose a greater risk of infection for children than any other public place, and are unlikely to drive transmission of the virus.



How to make schools safer?

Ensuring proper and feasible physical distancing, ventilation and cleaning, practising hand hygiene and cough etiquette and using personal protection (face masks, etc.) will not only minimise transmission of COVID-19, but also other respiratory infections at schools during the autumn/winter season.



We need to reopen schools as soon as possible to guarantee a suitable learning environment and lessen the unintended, negative social effects of school closure.