



Delta Variant Not Specifically Targeting Children: WHO

The Delta variant of the coronavirus is not specifically targetting children, the World Health Organization (WHO) said Friday (July 30, 2021).

The WHO's Covid-19 technical lead, Maria Van Kerkhove said the evidence showed that the variant first detected in India was rather being transmitted among people who were socially mixing.

"Let me be very clear: we are not seeing the Delta variant specifically target children," the US expert told a press conference.

Delta has now being detected in 132 countries and is more transmissible than earlier versions of the virus, including other variants of concern.

The UN health agency said, work was under way to gain a better understanding of the dynamics of Delta and why it is more transmissible.

"There are some suggestions that the variants specifically targetting children, but that actually is not the case. What we are seeing is that the variants will target those who are socially mixing," Van Kerkhove said.

"What we do see is that the variant that are circulating will infect people if they are not taking the proper precautions," she added, referring to measures such as physical distancing and avoiding gathering in poorly ventilated, crowded indoor spaces.

The WHO published a plan detailing ways in which schools can reopen and stay open in safety.

"But do we really need to drive down transmission in the communities to make sure that they can open safely," Van Kerkhove said. - AFP / [thedailystar.net](https://www.thedailystar.net), Geneva, August 1, 2021