

## SAPA 2020 CONFERENCE POSTPONED TO 2021

Owing to the COVID-19 pandemic, the conference planned for September 2020 in Pretoria has been postponed. The conference will now take place in 2021. Our monthly webinars will continue to provide education for specialists and trainees.

## SAPA COVID-19 WEBINAR SERIES

With new information emerging daily on SARS-CoV-2, SAPA has endeavoured to keep child health practitioners and parents up to date with accurate information that can be used to guide decision-making. We are grateful to have had many renowned experts discuss the evidence and their views on how best to manage the needs of children in this time.

The COVID-19 webinar series is freely available on the [SAPA YouTube channel](#). Recent topics covered include a discussion on the safety of returning to school, the use of masks and visors in children and how best to organise hospitals to manage the pandemic locally, with experience shared from the Great Ormond Street Hospital in the UK and Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital in Cape Town.

## COVID-19 in children: fact versus fiction

Children do spread the SARS-CoV-2 virus, but there is much greater risk of adults spreading to children than the other way around. Children with SARS-CoV-2 infection are usually asymptomatic or develop mild disease. The mortality rate of COVID-19 in children is extremely low.

Children with severe, uncontrolled underlying conditions are at greater risk for severe disease if infected. Asthmatic children can safely return to school if their asthma is well-controlled.

Regularly updated useful paediatric COVID-19 evidence summaries:

[University of Melbourne](#)

[Don't forget the bubbles](#)

For updates on future webinars, conferences and other SAPA news, sign up [here](#). Also, follow us on our social media channels.



## VENTILATOR SIMULATOR TRAINING

The way we learn and train has necessarily changed in recent years and this has intensified during the COVID-19 pandemic. Online resources, such as [openpaediatrics.org](http://openpaediatrics.org) have provided brilliant opportunities for learning critical skills. Trainees using the mechanical ventilator simulator have been shown to learn as much in 5 hours of simulation as they would in a month in PICU. Training prior to a PICU rotation shows even greater benefit.

Complement this by reading the [Critical Care Society of Southern Africa guidelines](#) to be well prepared to manage critically ill children with COVID-19.

## BECOME A SAPA MEMBER

Leave your [details](#) and we'll get back to you with more information.

