

**Correspondence**

To the Editors

**COVID-19 lock down and impact on rotavirus incidence: a reappraisal**

*Sri Lanka Journal of Child Health*, 2020; **49**(4): 416

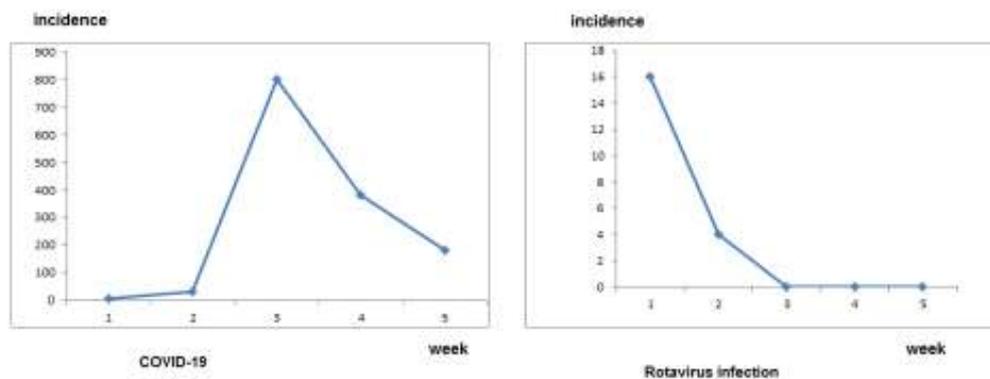
DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.4038/sljch.v49i4.9284>

(Key words: COVID-19, infection, rotavirus, control, lockdown, pandemic)

COVID-19 is an important pandemic at present affecting many millions of patients worldwide. A standard measure for COVID-19 containment is strict infection control by implementing lock down measures. The strict control is aimed at reducing the incidence of COVID-19. Additionally, the stringent control can also impact the incidence of other diseases such as influenza<sup>1</sup>. The situation in Thailand, an Indochina country, is the best example<sup>1</sup>.

The authors reappraised the public data on the effect of COVID-19 lock down on the incidence of an important paediatric disease, rotavirus infection. Rotavirus is a gastrointestinal pathogen that is transmitted via contaminated food and water<sup>2</sup>.

From reappraisal of available data from Thailand<sup>1</sup>, the incidence of rotavirus infection dramatically reduced and reached zero after COVID-19 lock down (Figure 1). Lockdown started in the 9<sup>th</sup> week of 2020, complete lockdown being used in the first month and partial open/off lockdown in the following months. On the other hand, COVID-19 incidence initially increased after the lockdown before a slower reduction occurred, the incidence never coming down to zero (Figure 1). In fact, lock down decreases the chance of close contact in a crowded environment. School closure is also a common measure which can significantly reduce the chances of children getting diseases from the schools.



**Figure 1: Trend of incidence of rotavirus infection and COVID-19 after COVID-19 lock down**

**References**

1. Suntronwong N, Thongpan I, Chuchaona W, Lestari FB, Vichaiwattana P, Yorsaeng R, *et al.* Impact of COVID-19 public health interventions on influenza incidence in Thailand. *Pathogens and Global Health* 2020; **114**(5): 225-7. <https://doi.org/10.1080/20477724.2020.1777803> PMID: 32521210
2. Gómez-Rial J, Sánchez-Batán S, Rivero-Calle I, Pardo-Seco J, Martínón-Martínez JM, Salas A, *et al.* Rotavirus infection

beyond the gut. *Infection and Drug Resistance* 2018; **12**:55-64. <https://doi.org/10.2147/IDR.S186404> PMID: 30636886 PMID: PMC6307677

**\*Pathum Sookaromdee<sup>1</sup>; Viroj Wiwanitkit<sup>2</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Private Academic Consultant,

<sup>2</sup>Honorary Professor, Dr. DY Patil University, Pune, India

\*Correspondence: pathumsook@gamil.com

 [orcid.org/ 0000-0002-8859-5322](https://orcid.org/0000-0002-8859-5322)