



**Launch of the WHO European Childhood
Obesity Surveillance Initiative (COSI)
report on the COVID-19 pandemic**

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8 April 2024

Link to register:

<https://who.zoom.us/webinar/register/WNoggVz829TbWzle-dRqsFZw>

**Tuesday 23 April 2024
11:30-13:30 (CET)**

Original: English

Scope and purpose

The year of 2020 was hit by the COVID-19 pandemic and governments worldwide implemented containment measures to curb the virus's spread, such as periods of restricted movements, social distancing, self-isolation, mask mandates, school and public space closures. These measures disrupted daily life for families globally and had profound impacts on children and adolescents' daily routines, health and well-being.

Considering the negative effects of COVID-19 on the well-being, physical activity, and eating behaviours among children and adolescents it is important to better understand the impact of the pandemic on children's daily routines and behaviours, particularly with the epidemic of childhood obesity and other chronic diseases in the long-term.

In collaboration with our WHO Collaborating Centre for Nutrition and Childhood Obesity at the Food and Nutrition Department of the National Institute of Health Doutor Ricardo Jorge (Instituto Nacional de Saúde Doutor Ricardo Jorge), the WHO Regional Office for Europe's Special Initiative on Noncommunicable diseases and Innovation (SNI) will launch the report "The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the daily routine and behaviours of school-aged children in Europe: results from 17 Member States".

The event will take place on **Tuesday 23rd April, 11:30-13.30 CET**.

Outcomes

The launch event will:

- give an overview of results of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on children's daily routines, wellbeing, eating habits, behaviours, physical activity and perception of weight status; and
- discuss policy implications and next steps for action at country level.

For over a decade, the WHO European COSI has provided high-quality measures of overweight and obesity among primary school-aged children (6-9 years) in the WHO European Region, next to valuable data on physical activity and eating habits of children, and on family background. This initiative is made possible through a vital collaboration between WHO/Europe and research institutions across the WHO European Region. Data from the COSI project — which now includes more than 40 of the 53 Member States in the region — provides important and high quality data which enables countries to set child obesity targets, monitor progress over time and make between-country comparisons.

The working languages of the online meeting will be English and Russian.