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Children better at fighting Covid-19

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CHILDREN are better at fighting off Covid than adults because they have a stronger innate immune system, a new Yale University study shows.

They also have fewer of the ACE2 receptors in their body than adults, according to Australian National University infectious diseases expert Professor Peter Collignon.

It is these receptors that the Covid-19 virus binds to in order to infect our cells.

“One of the main receptors that the Covid virus locks on to is the ACE2 and basically children seem to have a lot less of it at least until puberty and that’s a big factor, and their innate immunity also works differently,” Professor Collignon said. He said while a small number of children developed bad cases of the virus most experienced only mild symptoms.

“Everywhere around the world, the peak, the people who get Covid and spread it are 20 to 30 year olds, and then probably 30-to-40-year-olds, mainly because they interact so much,” he said.

“So it was always ridiculous closing schools, particularly primary schools when you had you know, clubs and bars and restaurants open.”

Professor Kevan Herold, an immunobiology expert at Yale University, has been examining why children are better at dealing with the virus.

He tested nose and throat swabs from 12 children and 27 adults and found the samples from children contained higher levels of two immune proteins called cytokines than the samples from adults.

Also, more genes involved in the initial immune system response to invaders were active in children than in the adults.