

Uncovering the Wider Impact of COVID-19 Measures on the Lives of Children with Complex Care Needs and their Families

Why is this project important?

- Children with complex care needs often rely on multiple and intensive services and are one of the most vulnerable populations served by our health and social care systems.
- While public health measures implemented during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic were necessary to protect the health of the population and the healthcare system, they have also had unintended adverse consequences related to mental health, food security, physical activity, and access to health services and community supports for many children and families.
- Emerging evidence suggests that these impacts may have been exacerbated for vulnerable pediatric populations, including children with complex care needs.

What are we doing?

- We have conducted a 2-phase, mixed methods study exploring the impacts of COVID-related policy and service changes on the health and well-being of children with complex care needs and their families across the Maritimes.
- Phase 1 combined an environmental scan of provincial government directives related to COVID-19 with interviews with key public health, health care, and social service policymakers and service providers.
- Phase 2 used these initial findings to structure interviews with children with complex care needs and their parents/caregivers to better understand how they experienced these changes.

How will this help?

- Exploring the experiences of children with complex care needs and their families during the pandemic and evaluating the impacts of COVID-19-related policy and service changes will help us to identify areas of strength and innovation within the healthcare system, as well as gaps in service and areas where improvements are necessary.
- This knowledge will inform patient-centred approaches to healthcare service integration and delivery and contribute to more robust and effective responses in future periods of healthcare system stress and accompanying policy flux.

Who can I contact?

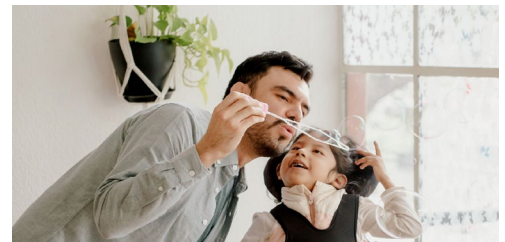
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