

Coronavirus (COVID-19) – information for children, young people and families from the Infectious Diseases team

We understand that you might be worried about coronavirus – also known as COVID-19 – particularly if your child has a long-term health condition. This information sheet from the Infectious Diseases team at Great Ormond Street Hospital (GOSH) sets out our advice for children and young people who use our services.

[Please read this alongside our general FAQs for families at gosh.nhs.uk/covid-19-FAQ.](https://gosh.nhs.uk/covid-19-FAQ) You can also find the latest news, information and resources in our COVID-19 information hub at gosh.nhs.uk/coronavirus-hub.

Does COVID-19 affect children?

The evidence to date shows that although children do develop COVID-19 very few children will develop severe infection with COVID-19.

If your child has reduced immunity, they could be more vulnerable to becoming unwell with respiratory infections, including COVID-19, and should therefore be particularly strict in following the social distancing measures outlined in the Government guidelines.

Hepatitis B and C

There is no current evidence that having Hepatitis B or C infection is associated with increased risk of severe illness with COVID-19.

However, if your child has a hepatitis infection that has caused chronic liver disease such as cirrhosis, they could be at increased risk for severe illness with COVID-19. It is recommended that if your child has a chronic liver disease that

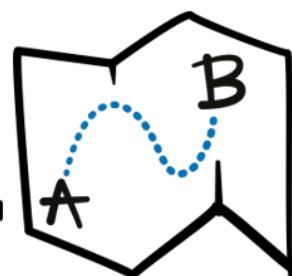
they are particularly stringent in following the isolation recommendations.

HIV

There is no current evidence that people living with HIV are at an increased risk of serious illness with COVID-19, as long as they have a good CD4 count (above 350) and an undetectable viral load.

Children and young people with HIV should be particularly rigorous in following advice for social distancing if they have:

- CD4 count of less than 350, or
- A chronic lung disease (i.e. asthma or bronchiectasis), or
- Other chronic health problems as listed in Government guidance, or
- A family/household member who is classed as a vulnerable person as listed in Government guidance



Specific advice about medicines from the Infectious Diseases team

Taking your medication is very important and not taking it could make your condition worse. Please consult your specialty team before making any decisions regarding your medication.

Also, please remember that if you, your child or anyone else in your household has symptoms of COVID-19, please do not visit your doctor or pharmacist – stay at home and use the NHS 111 online service at 111.nhs.uk for urgent medical advice. You should also contact your clinical team at GOSH to let them know.

However, if you are worried about your child or feel their life is at risk, you should call 999 or go to your local A&E or urgent care centre as you normally would.

Further information and support

Information from the NHS at www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/

Information for children is available on the BBC Newsround website at www.bbc.co.uk/newsround

Should we make alternative clinic appointments?

Our clinical teams are looking at each patient carefully to work out who absolutely needs to come into hospital, which clinics and consultations can be done another way such as video or phone calls, and which appointments, procedures and admissions can be rescheduled safely. We appreciate your patience with this as we work on getting our services up and running safely and smoothly.

If your child has an upcoming clinic appointment, we will be in touch with you to discuss how we can best carry this out.

