

Coronavirus (COVID-19) – information for children, young people and families from your kidney transplant team

We understand that you might be worried about coronavirus – also known as COVID-19 – particularly if your child has had a kidney transplant. This information sheet from your Kidney Transplant 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 information about coronavirus (COVID-19) available online at

www.gosh.nhs.uk/news/coronavirus-covid-19-information-children-young-people-and-families

This information has been approved by the clinical team at GOSH.

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.

As your child is taking immunosuppressant medicines to reduce the risk of their kidney being rejected, they are included in the ‘extremely vulnerable patients’ groups as outlined by the Government.

However, to date (27 March) we are not aware of any reports from clinicians in Italy of kidney transplant recipients becoming unwell with COVID-19.

The current advice for this patient group is that your child should not leave your home for 12 weeks, and should carry out the ‘shielding’ measures as outlined on the [NHS website](https://www.nhs.uk).

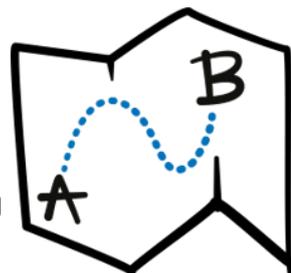
Specific advice about medicines from the kidney transplant team

The risk of stopping your child’s medicines and potentially losing their kidney outweighs the risk of developing COVID-19. Your child should continue to take their medicines as usual.

Remember, kidney transplant patients should never take ibuprofen.

Should we make alternative clinic appointments?

Under normal circumstances, your child would have regular blood tests to monitor their kidney function. We are reviewing every patient and where possible and practical, we will arrange for them to have blood tests locally and you will be informed of where this will happen. You might be asked to attend GOSH for bloods only.



We will contact you to discuss these arrangements as soon as they have been made – please allow us time to do this.

If you are attending any hospital or clinic for a blood test, only one parent or carer should accompany your child.

Clinicians are looking to remove the need for patients to attend face-to-face appointments wherever possible. This might involve to telephone appointments or exploring video consultations.

Please do not attend GOSH for any routine clinic if you or your child is unwell. This is to ensure that all patients remain as safe as possible.

If your child is admitted to your local hospital during this period of time, please inform us and ask your local team to contact GOSH.

Further information and support

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

British Association for Paediatric Nephrology www.renal.org/bapn/

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

