

Coronavirus (COVID-19) – information for children, young people and families from the Immunology 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, such as one that affects the immune system. This information sheet from the Immunology 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

See also the advice from Primary Immunodeficiency UK - www.piduk.org/whatarepids/management/coronavirusadviceforpidpatients

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.

There is no evidence that children with Primary Immunodeficiency are at great risk of developing COVID-19, or are at greater risk of severe complications from this infection.

Data from Italy and other countries with more infected patients, suggest that patients with Primary immunodeficiency have the same risks as children with normal immunity, however at present information remains limited. As far as we are aware, no child with Primary Immunodeficiency has yet died from COVID19 infection.

Specific advice about medicines from the Immunology 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.

We recommend all patients with Primary Immunodeficiency continue current treatments, including immunoglobulin infusions (SCIG or IVIG).

It is also important that patients continue their regular medical follow up and monitoring during this difficult time.

Should we make alternative clinic appointments?

We will aim to minimize hospital attendance where possible, and replace face to face appointment with telephone clinic for some patients. Patients



will need to continue to have blood tests where the results are essential for maintaining safe ongoing treatment and protection.

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

