

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 information about coronavirus (COVID-19) available online at

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

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.

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

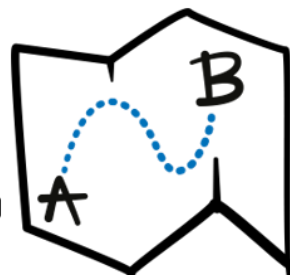
particularly stringent in following the isolation recommendations.

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.

Should we make alternative clinic appointments?

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

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

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

