

Coronavirus (COVID-19) – information for children, young people and families from the Metabolic 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 a metabolic disorder. This information sheet from the Metabolic 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 comes from the British Inherited Metabolic Disease Group (BIMDG) and metabolic Clinical Reference Group (CRG) and 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.

Some children with metabolic disorders may have associated lung (pulmonary) disease or have a tendency to frequent chest infections that may put them at more risk if they develop COVID-19.

Other children with metabolic disorders may be at risk of a “metabolic decompensation” (worsening of symptoms) if they develop COVID-19, in the same way that any infection can disturb their metabolic condition.

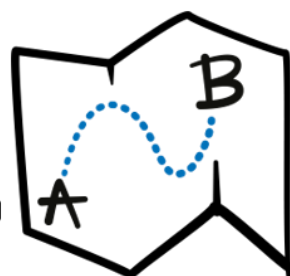
If your child has one of these metabolic disorders that may make them more at risk from COVID-19 we may advise you to follow NHS advice for isolating or shielding as a precaution.

Specific advice about medicines from the metabolic team

All normal medicines should be continued, and you should ensure you have a supply of your child’s emergency regimen if they have one advised by the Metabolic team.

Should we make alternative clinic appointments?

In line with NHS advice, clinicians are trying to remove the need for patients to attend face-to-face appointments wherever possible. This might involve 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

Specific information relating to Metabolic disorders and COVID-19 can be found at www.bimdg.org.uk

