

Coronavirus (COVID-19) – information for children, young people and families from the Inherited Cardiovascular Disease 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 Inherited Cardiovascular Disease team at Great Ormond Street Hospital (GOSH) sets out our advice for children, young people and families who use our services.

Please read this alongside our general FAQs for families at 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.

This information comes from the Association for Inherited Cardiac Conditions and has been approved by the clinical team at GOSH.

Does COVID-19 affect children?

The evidence to date suggests that although children do develop COVID-19, very few children will develop a severe infection with COVID-19, even if they have an underlying health condition.

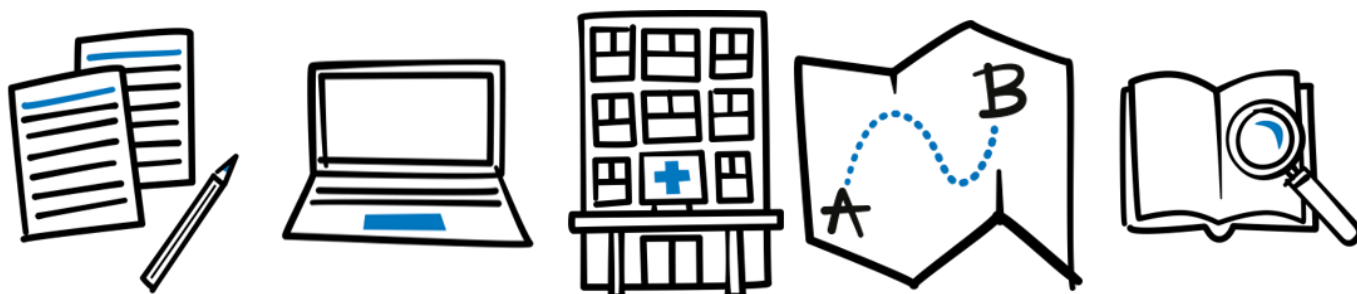
At GOSH, we are taking extra precautions to keep our young patients safe, including providing specialty guidance for patients who may be considered immunocompromised or part of a vulnerable group, which you can find at gosh.nhs.uk/covid-19-specialty-guides.

Specific advice about inherited cardiovascular diseases

Most children who have an inherited cardiovascular disease are not at increased risk of developing severe symptoms of COVID-19 and should follow the same government advice as all other members of the population.

Brugada syndrome

Patients diagnosed with **Brugada syndrome**, or children who are at risk of this condition due to their family history, should take particular care to treat any fevers aggressively with paracetamol and ibuprofen. If a fever does not respond to these medications, these patients should call NHS 111 for advice or access the service online at 111.nhs.uk. They may be asked to attend their local A&E department for ECG monitoring.



If you are very worried about your child, whatever their underlying condition, please call 999 or take them to A&E, as you normally would.

Specific advice about medicines from the Inherited Cardiovascular Disease team

Taking medication is very important and not taking it could make your child's condition worse. Please consult your specialty team before making any decisions regarding your child's 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 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 relating to specific inherited cardiovascular diseases can be accessed through the following websites:

British Heart Foundation:

<https://www.bhf.org.uk/information-support/heart-matters-magazine/news/coronavirus-and-your-health>

Cardiomyopathy UK:

<https://www.cardiomyopathy.org/>

Marfan Trust:

<http://www.marfantrust.org/news/marfan-trust-statement-on-covid-19>

Association for Inherited Cardiac Conditions (AICC):

https://theaicc.org/?page_id=649

Arrhythmia Alliance:

<http://www.arrhythmiaalliance.org.uk/>

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



