

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

We understand that you might be worried about coronavirus – also known as COVID-19 – particularly if your child has had a heart and/or lung transplant. This information sheet from your Heart and Lung 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 FAQs for families at gosh.nhs.uk/covid-19-FAQ. You can also from the latest news, information and resources in our COVID-10 Information hub at gosh.nhs.uk/coronavirus-hub.

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 transplant being rejected, they are included in the 'extremely vulnerable patients' groups as outlined by the Government.

The current advice is that your child should not leave your home for at least 12 weeks and carry out the 'shielding' measures [as outlined on the Government website](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/coronavirus-shielding-advice).

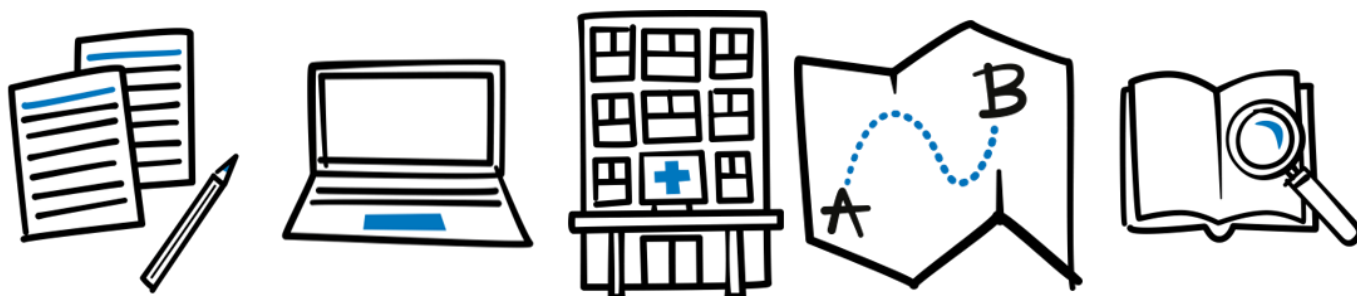
We appreciate that this advice might cause anxiety, so we have put together some special guidance to clarify what this means for your child

and your family, available online at gosh.nhs.uk/covid-19-and-vulnerable-children.

Specific advice about medicines from the Heart and Lung transplant team

The risk of stopping your child's medicines outweighs the risk of developing COVID-19. Your child should continue to take their medicines as usual, or as advised by your transplant consultant.

Remember, heart and lung 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 condition. We are reviewing every patient and where possible and practical, we will arrange for them to have blood tests locally. We will let you know where this will happen.

We will contact you to discuss these arrangements as soon as they have been made. We appreciate your patience with this, as things may take a little longer than usual.

If you are attending any hospital or clinic for a blood test or review, 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. Instead we will be conducting telephone appointments or video consultations.

Please do not attend GOSH for any routine clinic if you or your child has symptoms of COVID-19. This is to ensure that all patients remain as safe as possible. If you're worried about whether to attend an upcoming appointment, please contact your clinical team.

As ever, if there is change in your child's underlying condition or you are worried about them, please contact us. If you are very worried about your child or their life is at risk, you should always call 999 or go to your local A&E or urgent care centre.

If your child is admitted to your local hospital, please inform us and ask your local team to contact GOSH directly.

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

