

Coronavirus (COVID-19) – information for children, young people and families from the Kidney 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 chronic kidney disease. This information sheet from the Kidney team at Great Ormond Street Hospital (GOSH) sets out our advice for children, young people, parents and carers 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 Government, the Renal Association and the clinical team at GOSH.

Does COVID-19 affect children?

The evidence to date shows that although children can get infected with COVID-19 very few children will develop severe symptoms, even if they have an underlying health condition.

What is the advice for children with chronic kidney disease?

The NHS recently sent letters to anyone identified as being extremely vulnerable to, or at highest clinical risk from COVID-19 – this includes patients with chronic kidney disease.

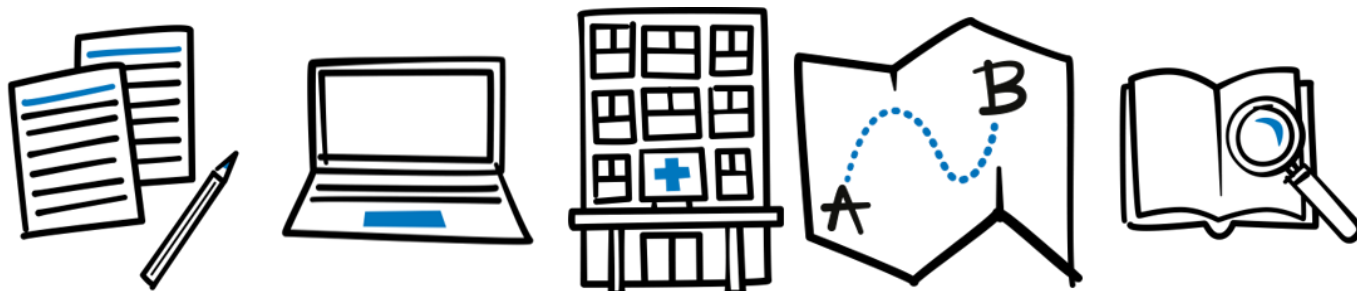
It is recommended that you follow the advice in these letters carefully: stay at home at all times and avoid all face-to-face contact. This is known as 'shielding'. You can read more about what shielding means on the [Government website](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/coronavirus-shielding-advice).

You will have also received special guidance from GOSH to clarify what shielding means for your child and your family. You can access this online at gosh.nhs.uk/covid-19-and-vulnerable-children.

We know that practicing shielding can be difficult, and at times, impossible for some families. **We suggest you and your child shield (or self-isolate the best you can) any time you're not at GOSH for haemodialysis or travelling to the hospital for your appointment.**

Specific advice about attending haemodialysis sessions

To ensure that we can continue to provide dialysis for your child during this difficult time, the Haemodialysis unit will only be open on Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday until further notice. Patients will be allocated either a morning or afternoon time slot.



To allow us to protect your children, family and our staff, we ask that you follow the guidance below.

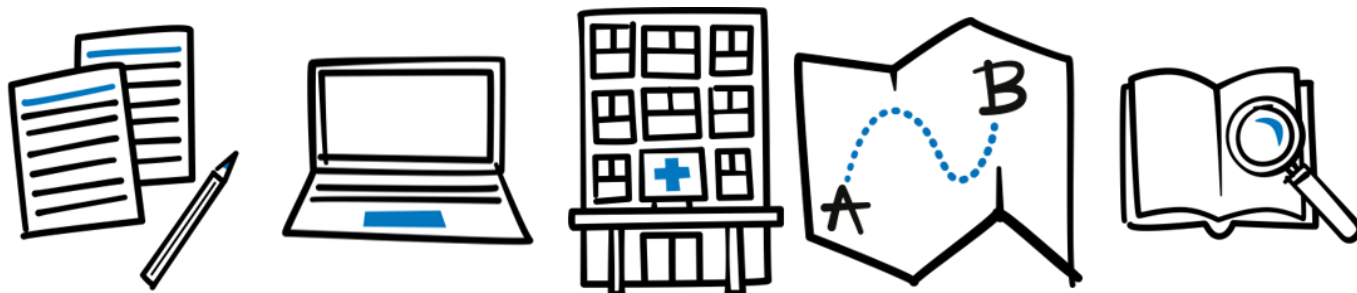
- Isolate your child and household members until further advice is given by the Government and GOSH Kidney team.
- Follow the social distancing guidance on the NHS website should you need to leave your home.
- **Only one parent/carer** is to attend dialysis with their child. This should be the **same parent/carer for each session**. Siblings will not be able to visit the hospital.
- The Renal Association and the GOSH Infection Control Team have recommended that dialysis patients and their parent/carer wear a mask travelling to dialysis and throughout the session if tolerated. Masks will be provided by the dialysis unit. We appreciate that this guidance may be unrealistic for younger children.
- Your dialysis day and time may be subject to change at short notice during this very busy period.
- To reduce any infection risks, patients and parents/carers need to stay in their dialysis space and must not leave Eagle Ward during the treatment time.
- Your child will be provided with meals on haemodialysis. However, parents/carers should bring their own meals and drinks to minimise movement within the ward and hospital.
- Follow the social distancing guidance, only two parents should be in the parent kitchen at any one time should you need to use it.
- When you arrive a member of staff will ask you some questions to screen your child and family for COVID-19 before you come onto the unit.

Symptomatic or Covid-19 Positive patients or household members

- If your child or a household member becomes unwell with symptoms of COVID-19, you must inform the Kidney team before your child's dialysis session by calling Eagle Ward on 020 7829 8815 or 020 7829 8817.
- If a parent or carer has symptoms of COVID-19, please find another family member to bring your child to dialysis. Parent/carers who are symptomatic will not be able to visit the hospital.
- If your child has symptoms of COVID-19, you will be asked to call Eagle Ward 10 minutes before you arrive at the main entrance, so a member of staff can escort you to the ward with a mask. We may also arrange for your child to be reviewed in the local hospital or another ward in GOSH to protect other Haemodialysis patients and staff. We will always ensure your child receives adequate dialysis.
- Our team will also try to phone every family the morning of their dialysis appointment to screen for COVID-19. However, if your child displays any symptoms of COVID-19, do not wait for this call to let us know. Please inform the Kidney team as soon as possible.
- We will be testing all symptomatic patients attending haemodialysis. We also may ask the parent or carer accompanying them to be tested as well.

Hospital transport

- Transport can pick you up an hour before or after your collection time. There may be a reduction in drivers for patient transport during this time, so please be aware that there may be delays with incoming and outgoing journeys.
- Patients who have cars may be asked to drive their child to dialysis. Parking information is on our website. Mileage will



be reimbursed over this period. Speak to the nurse in charge for this information and the relevant forms to complete.

Prescriptions

- One-week notice is required for any repeat medication or equipment prescriptions.
- Please collect your prescriptions on the way into or way out of dialysis – please do not leave the ward to collect it while your child is having dialysis. If your child needs the prescription before you leave, a member of staff will collect it for you.

Additional information for Home Haemodialysis (HHD) patients

- Home Haemodialysis patients must ensure they have two weeks back-up stock.
- If your child becomes unwell with symptoms of COVID-19 please follow public health advice but also contact the HHD team or Eagle Ward. They may send your child to your local hospital for review.

- Please do not bring your child to Eagle Ward if they are unwell unless this has been arranged with the HHD or Eagle Ward team.
- If a parent/carer who is trained to do the haemodialysis becomes unwell, please contact the HHD team or Eagle Ward so in-centre haemodialysis sessions can be arranged if necessary.

Should we make alternative clinic appointments?

Clinic appointments for in-centre haemodialysis reviews will continue while your child is on dialysis. Your regular kidney doctors will see your child while they are on dialysis.

Clinic appointments for HHD patients will be conducted on the phone and bloods sent to the local hospital for analysis.

If your child has an upcoming non-renal 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 from the Renal Association at renal.org/renal-association-statement-ppe-use-masks-dialysis-patients/

Information from NICE at www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng160

Information for children is available on the BBC Newsround website at www.bbc.co.uk/newsround

