

Coronavirus (COVID-19) – information for children, young people and families from the Orthopaedics team

We understand that you might be worried about coronavirus – also known as COVID-19 – and the impact the current pandemic may have on treatment of your child’s orthopaedic problem. This information sheet from the Orthopaedic 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 British Orthopaedic Association and has been approved by the clinical team at GOSH.

Non-emergency surgery in England has been suspended due to the ongoing coronavirus (COVID-19) emergency. Working closely with NHS England, hospitals are currently looking at how they might re-start non-emergency surgery, while keeping everyone safe.

How long will my child’s non-emergency surgery be suspended?

We don’t know at the moment – as restrictions are lifted, it will become clearer when and how we can re-start non-emergency surgery. The Orthopaedics team at GOSH is planning carefully to ensure that, when the time comes, we can re-start surgery in the safest way possible.

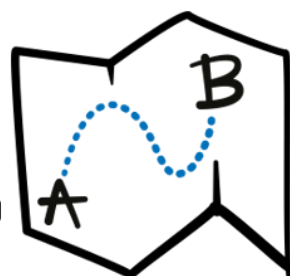
The British Orthopaedic Association has issued guidance for surgeons to outline which conditions need treatment sooner than others. We will follow this guidance when planning to re-start non-emergency surgery at GOSH.

We will carefully consider the potential impact of delayed treatment for different conditions, including the risk of delays making the surgery more complex or less likely to be successful.

As we begin planning non-emergency surgeries at GOSH, we will discuss these considerations with you and your child.

My child has already started treatment, so what happens now?

If your child has already started treatment, for instance with a plaster cast or splint, we will continue with their treatment pathway, replacing casts as needed. We will contact you to discuss



when your child needs to come to GOSH and what to expect when you get here.

Children having **Ponseti treatment** for talipes (clubfoot) are continuing with their reviews in clinic and our physiotherapists will give you information about looking after and adjusting the boots and bar at home.

If your child is due to have **surgery to treat talipes**, such as tendon lengthening, this may be postponed for a few weeks. Your child should continue with the exercises recommended by the physiotherapists. If you're concerned about the impact of a delay to your child's treatment, your clinical team can discuss this with you.

If your child has an **external fixator** in place, you should continue to look after the pin sites as you have been shown. If you have any concerns or questions, please contact the Clinical Nurse Specialists (CNS) in the usual way.

If your child is due to have their **external fixator removed** when the lengthening or correction has

finished, we will arrange this as soon as we can. There may be a slight delay, during which you should continue with pin site care and physio exercises to keep the limb healthy.

Should we make alternative clinic appointments?

Clinicians are looking to remove the need for patients to attend face-to-face appointments wherever possible. This means your appointment may be changed to a phone call, video call or postponed.

If you are concerned about your child and feel they need to be seen, then please get in touch with your child's CNS. 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

