

Coronavirus (COVID-19) – information for children, young people and families from the Dermatology 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 severe dermatology condition or vascular anomaly. This information sheet from the Dermatology 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 find the latest news, information and resources in our COVID-19 information hub at gosh.nhs.uk/coronavirus-hub.

This guidance comes from the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health, 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.

Most children with dermatological disorders, including those on methotrexate, azathioprine, cyclosporin or sirolimus, do not need to 'shield'.

Whether or not your child needs to shield depends on the severity of their condition and the particular circumstances of the child and family.

If you are unsure whether your child needs to shield, please contact the specialist responsible for the care of your child.

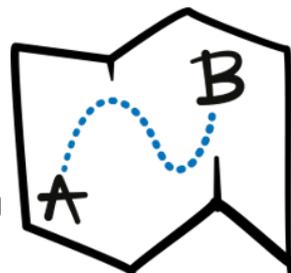
Specific advice about medicines from the Dermatology team

Your child must continue to take the medicine prescribed for their condition unless advised by your specialist.

It is particularly important that patients on long-term prednisolone do not stop suddenly.

If your child develops an infection, contact your clinical team as soon as possible. It may be necessary to pause certain treatments, but only if agreed with the Dermatology team.

If you are worried about your child or feel their life is at risk, you should call 999 or go to your local A&E or urgent care centre as you normally would.



Should we make alternative clinic appointments?

Our clinical teams are looking at each patient carefully to work out which patients absolutely need to come into hospital, which clinics and consultations can be done another way such as

video or phone calls, and which appointments, procedures and admissions can be rescheduled safely.

If your child has an upcoming clinic appointment, we will be in touch with you to discuss whether this can be carried 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

