

Coronavirus (COVID-19) – information for children, young people and families from the Craniofacial 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 craniosynostosis. This information sheet from the Craniofacial 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.

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.

However, patients with synostosis who have airway difficulties and are on CPAP or BIPAP are likely to be at greater risk of suffering respiratory complications if they contract COVID 19. These patients should therefore ‘shield’ according to national guidance.

You or your child may already have received a letter and/or text message from the government, stating that you should follow shielding advice. You can read more on shielding at gosh.nhs.uk/covid-19-FAQ and we have written some special guidance to clarify what shielding means for you and your child, available at gosh.nhs.uk/covid-19-and-vulnerable-children. These patients are not more likely to get COVID-

19 in the first place, provided they do not have an immune problem.

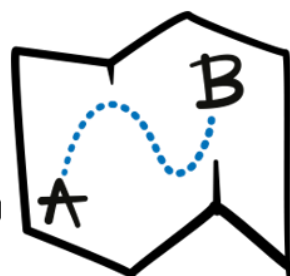
It is important that children on CPAP and BIPAP continue with their prescribed treatment and refer to the non-invasive ventilation and long-term ventilation information sheet for children and young people using CPAP and BIPAP, at gosh.nhs.uk/covid-19-specialty-guides.

Other children with single suture synostosis and no airway difficulties are unlikely to be at increased risk of severe symptoms if they contract COVID 19.

There are no specific concerns or cautions for children who have a tracheostomy or nasopharyngeal airway.

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.

Visit gosh.nhs.uk/covid-19-FAQ for more information about changes to our services and what to expect if you're coming to GOSH.

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

