

Coronavirus (COVID-19) – information for children, young people and families from the Haemophilia 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 haemophilia or another clotting disorder. This information sheet from the Haemophilia 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 symptoms, even if they have an underlying health condition.

Children and young people with stand-alone inherited bleeding or thrombotic disorders are not considered 'clinically vulnerable' or 'extremely clinically vulnerable' to COVID-19 so do not need to 'shield'. They and their families are advised to follow the government's widely published precautions to prevent the spread of infection, including social distancing and keeping good hand hygiene.

If your child has any additional medical problems, please seek advice from the other teams involved in their care.

However, if you are very worried about your child or you feel their life is at risk, you should call 999

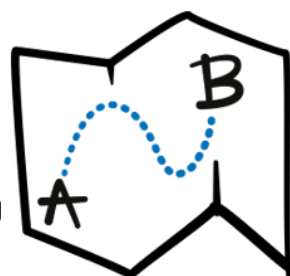
or take them to A&E or an urgent care centre as you normally would.

Specific advice about medicines from the Haemophilia team

It is very important that your child continues to take their medication as prescribed. Not taking it could make your condition worse. Please consult your specialty team before making any decisions regarding your medication.

Should we make alternative clinic appointments?

Our clinical teams are looking at each patient carefully to work out which clinics and consultations can be done another way such as through video or phone calls, which appointments, procedures and admissions can be rescheduled safely, and which patients absolutely need to come into hospital.



If your child has an upcoming clinic appointment, we will be in touch with you to discuss how we can best carry this out. This may mean that your child is offered a telephone appointment or video consultation. If your child is unwell and needs to be seen in person, we are here to support you and can arrange for the Haemophilia team to see them at GOSH.

As we start to re-open our services, we are prioritising children and young people who need our care most urgently. We understand that some families may be worried about visiting GOSH, but if we book a face-to-face appointment at the hospital, it's because we think it's important that your child is seen.

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

