

Coronavirus: advice for paediatric patients with haematological conditions

Please be advised that this patient information may become rapidly out of date, so please check the NHS website for up to date information.

- Supervise your child so they wash their hands often - with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available. This is particularly important after taking public transport
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- If your child feels unwell, keep them at home, and do not attend school
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in a bin. See [Catch it, Bin it, Kill it](#)
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces in the home and work environment
- If you are worried about your symptoms, please call NHS 111. Do not go directly to your GP or other healthcare environment
- see [further information](#) and the [Public Health England Blog](#)

There is currently no vaccine to prevent COVID-19 acute respiratory disease. The best way to prevent infection is to avoid being exposed to the virus.

- Avoid large gatherings. Your child can continue to go to school unless there is national guidance to stop attending.
- Avoid handshakes and hugs
- Avoid contact with people who have recently travelled in areas of the world where coronavirus rates are high (this list will be updated on a regular basis)
- Keep your child warm.
- Make sure your child has had the flu vaccine
- Ensure your child has good compliance with their medication.
- Make sure your child drinks plenty of fluids.
- In case of raised temperature (38C and above), cough or shortness of breath to contact the GP Or 111 for advice. If your child is unwell with high temperatures and has low immunity

then we recommend review in the emergency department. All splenectomised children and neutropenic children should present for clinical review.

- Chelation medication should be stopped if you have high temperatures.
- Please also contact our paediatric haematology service to inform the team of advice given tel 0203 246 0352, email bhnt.scatservice-rlh@nhs.net. If you choose to contact us by telephone out of hours, please leave a message and we will endeavour to contact you within 24 hours.
- The team will endeavour to contact you within 24 hours to advise further management.
- You may be asked to keep your child at home and self-isolate.
- Make sure you have enough stock of medication at home like analgesics, antibiotics and antipyretics.
- Follow all the general advice from the government and check for regular updates on the PHE (Public Health England).
- We may need to make changes to the scheduling of regular transfusions depending on the evolving national guidance.
- We may need to make changes to your child's out-patient appointments including the option of considering telephone consultations.
- We may delay non-essential or routine investigations.