

Coronavirus (COVID-19) – information for children, young people and families from the Haemodialysis 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 chronic kidney disease. This information sheet from the Kidney 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 information about coronavirus (COVID-19) available online at www.gosh.nhs.uk/news/coronavirus-covid-19-information-children-young-people-and-families

This information comes from the British Association for Paediatric Nephrology (BAPN) and 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.

The BAPN has advised stringent social distancing measures for all children on dialysis.

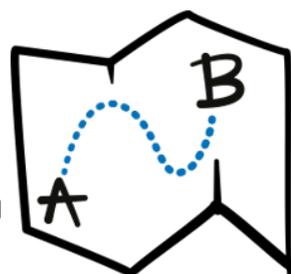
The GOSH Nephrology department ask that you **isolate your child and household members for 12 weeks**. This is not only to protect your child but also to allow us to maintain our dialysis service.

Specific advice about attending haemodialysis sessions

For the near future, the haemodialysis unit will only be open on Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday. Patients will be allocated either a morning or afternoon time slot.

To allow us to protect your children, family and our staff, we ask that you follow the guidance below.

1. Follow the social distancing guidance on the NHS website
2. Please call Eagle Ward on 020 7829 8815 before the dialysis session if your child or a household member becomes unwell with symptoms of COVID-19.
3. **Only one parent/carer** is to attend dialysis with their child. This must be the **same parent/carer for each session**. Siblings will not be able to visit the hospital.



4. If a parent or carer has symptoms of COVID-19, please try to find another family member to bring your child to dialysis.
5. Our team will try to phone you the morning of dialysis to ask you some questions to screen for COVID-19. However, if your child displays any symptoms before this phone call, please call Eagle Ward as soon as possible to inform the Haemodialysis team.
6. If you have informed the Haemodialysis team that your child is diagnosed or has symptoms of COVID-19, but you have been advised to come to GOSH, please call Eagle Ward when you are at the main entrance and a member of staff will come down to escort you to the ward with a mask.
7. Your dialysis day and time is subject to change at short notice during this very busy period.
8. Patients and parents/carers are to stay in their dialysis space.
9. Your child is provided with meals on haemodialysis. However, parents/carers should bring their own meals and drinks to minimise movement within the ward.
10. Follow the social distancing guidance of only two parents in the parent kitchen at any one time should you need to use it.
11. There may be a reduction in drivers for patient transport. Therefore, patients who have cars may be asked to drive their child to dialysis. Parking information is on our website at www.gosh.nhs.uk/parents-and-visitors/travelling-gosh/driving-and-parking.
12. Please use the door to the left of the lifts to enter Eagle Ward. A member of staff will ask you some questions to screen your child and family for COVID-19 before you come onto the unit.
13. Some patients may have their dialysis frequency safely reduced over this period. This will be done after clinical review.

Should we make alternative clinic appointments?

Clinic appointments for haemodialysis reviews will continue while your child is on dialysis. Your regular kidney doctors will see your child while they are on dialysis.

If your child has an upcoming non-renal 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

