

COVID-19 - resources for parents and carers

At RCPCH we understand this is a worrying time for children and their families. Below are some useful resources from across the UK.

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Key messages

COVID-19 is a new illness that can affect your lungs and airways. It's caused by a virus called coronavirus.

It is important that we **all** follow official guidance and information provided by the governments and health agencies so we can protect our families and other people who may become seriously ill if they are infected with COVID-19.

- **Everyone, of all ages, must stay at home** to help stop the spread of coronavirus in the UK. Avoid social interactions and only leave your home for essential reasons. If you do go out always make sure you stay at least 2 metres away from other people. See [more on GOV.UK](#)
- If you have [symptoms of COVID-19](#) (high temperature or a continuous cough) **stay at home for 7 days**. If you live with other people **they should stay at home for 14 days** from the day the first person got the symptoms.
- Regularly **wash your hands** for at least 20 seconds ([here's a handy video](#)), and if you cannot wash your hands use hand sanitiser.
- If your child has a medical condition or injury they should **continue to access treatment and attend medical appointments** as recommended by their hospital, GP or healthcare professionals. We have added a poster to explain how to access help during this time - see below for both English and Welsh language versions. (You can also [download the posters below](#).)
- If your child has received a **letter from the NHS to advise them to 'shield' during the COVID-19 outbreak**, we have developed a set of [frequently asked questions to support your child and family](#) during the 'shielding' 12 week period.

Talking to children and young people about COVID-19

Guidance from Children's Commissioners

Children's Commissioners across the UK have created guidance especially for children and young people:

- [England](#)
- [Scotland](#)
- [Wales](#)
- [Northern Ireland](#)

Stay at home activities

- RCPCH &Us has [stay at home activities](#), including a [children and young people's health diary](#) to write or draw feelings and questions and an [activity pack](#) that has fun things to do at home.
- [Change4Life](#) has ideas for indoor games and activities.

Tips for parents

- Young Minds has tips on [how to talk to your child about the virus](#).
- NSPCC has advice on [talking to children who are worried about COVID-19](#).

Books, posters and colouring in to download

- You can [download a poster that explains COVID-19 to children below](#) - shared with permission and thanks to University Hospitals Southampton NHSFT.
- [Monkey Wellbeing](#) has posters and colouring in resources for children that include explaining why healthcare workers have to wear protective clothing, why visiting might be restricted and how you can keep in touch. They also have a Thank You NHS rainbow poster for you to colour in.
- [Coronavirus - A Book for Children](#) (PDF) which is illustrated by Axel Scheffler and has input from Professor Graham Medley (London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine) is available and free to download.
- [Dave the Dog is Worried about Coronavirus](#) (PDF) is a book for young children to download by Nurse Dotty Books.
- [My Hero is You, Storybook for Children on COVID-19](#) is available to download in 30 languages.

Podcast

- Dr Ranj (paediatrician and TV doctor) has a [one-off podcast](#) where he answers children's questions on coronavirus.

Online resources

- [NIHR Children and Young People Med-Tech Cooperative](#) has links to lots of useful COVID-19 related resources for families and young people that cover wellbeing, mental

health, physical activity and learning.

- Young Scot has brought together lots of [helpful resources to help young people](#) at this challenging time - some of it is Scotland-based, but most is helpful wherever you are in the UK.

Medicines advice

- We have advice for parents on [anti-inflammatory medicines \(including ibuprofen\) and COVID-19](#).
- [Medicines for Children](#) provides practical and reliable information about giving medicines to your child.
- WellChild, a UK charity for children and parents with complex needs, has [information for parents and carer, which covers treatment plans, carers, hospital appointments](#) and signposts to other resources.

Visiting hospital

- If your child is in hospital or has a hospital appointment there is advice from [NHS England](#) and the [Department of Health in Northern Ireland](#) about visiting. More advice will be available from your child's hospital ward or department.

Staying safe advice from UK Governments

UK-wide

- The UK Government has [up to date information about COVID-19](#). This includes guidance on staying at home and away from others for [for everyone](#) and [for those most at risk](#).
- [A UK Government leaflet](#) on what to do to help stop the spread of coronavirus, including information on symptoms and government support was delivered to all households. It is available in [large print](#) (pdf) and [several languages](#).
- The UK Government has a [coronavirus information service on WhatsApp](#).

England

- If you or a member of your household have the symptoms of COVID-19 (high temperature and/or a continuous cough) follow advice from [Public Health England](#) (available in several languages and an [easy read guide](#)). This includes a [chart that shows how long household contacts need to self-isolate](#). There is also guidance on [protecting people who are very at risk](#). (available in several languages and an [easy read guide \(PDF\)](#)).
- To check if you have coronavirus symptoms and for advice on what to do if you have go to [NHS 111 online](#).

Scotland

- NHS Inform has advice for patients and the public on their [website](#), including [stay at home advice](#) and guidance on [protecting people who are most at risk of COVID-19](#).

There is also guidance on [caring for a fever in babies](#) and [in children](#).

- The [NHS 24 website](#) has guidance about when to call the NHS 111 service.

Wales

- The most up-to-date information provided by the Welsh Government is available on their [website](#) including guidance on [staying at home and away from others](#) and guidance on [protecting those who are most at risk of COVID-19](#).
- Public Health Wales (PHW) also has [guidance](#) on COVID-19 (including a British Sign Language version).
- NHS Direct Wales 111 has a helpful [online self-assessment guide](#) you can click through to let you know when they should be telephoning their helpline.

Northern Ireland

- The Public Health Agency (PHA) has produced [guidance](#) which can be found on their website. This includes advice on social distancing and preventing the spread of COVID-19.
- There is also information on [nidirect](#) including advice of staying at home and self-isolation.
- The Department of Health Northern Ireland has launched a new [COVID-19 NI information app](#) that provides advice and links to vital trusted information.

Condition and situation specific resources for families and children

Autism and ADHD

- Paediatrician Dr Max Davie, shared [tips in this short film to help people with ADHD](#) stay well.
- The Association for Child and Adolescent Mental Health has a podcast from Dr Ann Ozsvadijan and Dr Marianna Murin called '[Autism, a parent's guide](#)'.

Cancer

- The Children's Cancer and Leukaemia Group has [guidance for children and young people with cancer undergoing treatment](#).

Cardiology

- The British Heart Foundation have information on how [Coronavirus can affect people with heart or circulatory disease](#).

Crohn's and colitis

- Crohn's and Colitis UK has [frequently asked questions on coronavirus](#), including specific information for children and young people and advice on immunosuppressive medication.

Diabetes

- Diabetes UK are providing regular [updates on coronavirus and diabetes](#).

Disability and complex health needs

- Contact, a charity for families with disabled children, has an [information page on COVID-19](#), covering education, welfare benefits and the Coronavirus Bill, and more.
- WellChild, a UK charity for children and parents with complex needs, has [advice about what to do if your child is unwell but not with COVID-19](#).
- The Council for Disabled Children has a [COVID-19 support and guidance webpage](#), including easy read posters about COVID-19 and information from other organisations.
- Special Needs Jungle has a collection of [information for children with special needs](#), including how to create an effective space for home learning and advice on your child's Education Health Care Plan (EHCP).
- Together for Short Lives has a set of [frequently asked questions for families of children with serious life-limiting conditions](#).
- The British Academy of Childhood Disability has [resources for those caring for children with medical complexity or a life-limiting condition](#).
- Council for Disabled Children has compiled [resources, support and guidance about coronavirus](#) for children and young people.
- Public Health England has an easy read factsheet on [looking after your health and body](#) (PDF), which can be used for young people with learning disabilities.
- NSPCC has [advice for parents and carers on supporting children with special educational needs and disabilities](#) during the COVID-19 outbreak.
- The Challenging Behaviour Foundation has [information and resources for the families of people with severe learning disabilities](#).

Epilepsy

- Epilepsy Action has a set of [frequently asked questions for people with epilepsy](#).
- Young Epilepsy have a dedicated space for young people called [the Channel](#) which has information on COVID-19.

Mental health and wellbeing

- Public Health England has [guidance for parents and carers on supporting children's mental health and wellbeing](#), including advice for families of children with physical health issues, learning disabilities and autism, plus those accessing mental health services and young carers.
- YoungMinds has [advice for children and young people about what to do if they are anxious about coronavirus](#).
- Every Mind Matters (NHS and Public Health England) has [information on looking after your mental health](#), including supporting children and young people at this time.
- The World Health Organization has a factsheet on [helping children to cope with stress](#) (PDF) during this outbreak.
- Parent Club has advice on [how to protect your family and how to cope with staying at home](#).
- Anna Freud (National Centre for Children and Families) has [advice and selfcare resources](#)

for young people to support their wellbeing.

- Childline has provided [10 tips to cope during lockdown for children and young people](#) if they're feeling unwell, worried or upset.
- The University of Reading and University of Oxford have developed [advice for parents and carers to help support children and young people with worries](#) about COVID-19.
- Q Well provides [online counselling and wellbeing for adults](#) who may need support during this period.
- [NSPCC](#) has information and advice for parents and carers on a range of subjects that help to keep children safe and support the wellbeing of families during the COVID-19 outbreak.

Overseas visitors

- Diagnosis or treatment of COVID-19 is available free of charge to all overseas visitors including anyone living in the UK without permission. More information is available in [guidance from Public Health England](#).
- NHS Inform has information about free treatment for COVID-19 for all [overseas visitors to Scotland](#), including [for refugees and asylum seekers](#).

Newborn babies

- NHS England has [information about coronavirus for parents of newborn babies](#), including signs and symptoms to look out for and how to reduce your baby's risk of catch coronavirus.
- The Institute of Health Visiting and RCPCH have published advice for parents about the [6 to 8 week check for newborn babies during the COVID-19 outbreak](#).

Pregnancy and breastfeeding

- The Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RCOG) has [information for pregnant women and their families on COVID-19 and pregnancy](#).
- RCPCH has [advice on pregnancy and signposted to breastfeeding / infant feeding support](#), including advice for mothers with possible coronavirus symptoms.
- NHS Inform (Scotland) has information on [COVID-19: Pregnancy and newborn babies](#).

Renal

- The Renal Association and the British Association for Paediatric Nephrology have developed information and guidance [for children on haemodialysis, peritoneal dialysis and immune suppression \(including renal transplants\)](#).
- Kidney Care UK have coronavirus (COVID-19) [guidance for people with kidney disease including children](#).

Respiratory

- The British Lung Foundation has provided information and [guidance for people with asthma and lung conditions](#).
- Asthma UK has [health advice for people with asthma](#), including shielding advice for high risk groups and help for those feeling anxious.
- Cystic Fibrosis Trust has a [question and answers document](#) for people caring for someone with cystic fibrosis.

Sensory

- Sign Health has provided [sign language videos of the Government's daily press conferences](#), alongside latest guidance and resources.

Social care

- Cafcass has [guidance for families on effective co-parenting and childcare arrangements](#), including information about what to do if you have concerns for your child's safety.

Young carers

- CarersUK has [guidance with resources for carers](#), including how to create a contingency plan and protect those that you care for.

Other advice for parents and families

Keeping children safe from accidents at home

- It's always important to prevent accidental injuries, many of which occur in the home, and especially at this time. The Royal Society for Prevention of Accidents has helpful [advice for keeping children safe](#) and a [home and garden safety checklist](#).

Coping with a crying baby

- During this challenging time stress levels at home may increase. [ICON has helpful and reassuring advice](#) and a [leaflet](#) (PDF) on coping with a crying baby.

Safeguarding children

- NSPCC has a range of [guidance for keeping children safe from harm](#), including reporting child abuse and neglect.

E-safety

- The UK Government has [advice and support for parents and carers on how to keep children safe online](#).
- Think U Know is a [resource for children of all ages to learn more about how they can be protected online](#).
- The Children's Commissioner has produced [a digital safety and wellbeing kit for parents](#).
- Internet Matters offers [tips and advice for parents](#) on how to keep their children safe online.

Education and exams

- The UK Government has [advice on educating your child at home](#).
- Indoor Explorer has been developed by paediatricians and provides a range of [learning activities for children whilst they are at home](#).
- In England, the Department for Education has provided information on the [cancellation of GCSEs, AS and A Level exams](#) in 2020.

Explaining bereavement to children

- NHS has [advice to use when a child has lost a loved one](#) or a loved one is dying.
- The University of Oxford has produced guidance on how to tell children that someone has died, which you can [download below](#).
- Similar advice is also available from [Child Bereavement UK](#) and [Winston's Wish](#).

Sleep

- Changes from your usual routine can affect your families' sleep patterns. Here are some tips from a clinical psychologist in the Evelina London sleep team, about [how to help maintain sleep quality](#).

Financial advice and support

- [Citizens Advice](#) has a range of information, including: help you may be access, paying bills, work arrangements and children's education during COVID-19.
- Turn 2 Us has [guidance for accessing benefits](#) during the coronavirus outbreak.

Helplines

For everyone

- [NSPCC](#) provide a Helpline that is staffed by trained professionals who can provide expert advice and support if you're concerned about a child, if you're a parent or carer looking for advice or if you're a professional in need of information and guidance.
- [Shout](#) provides free, confidential support, 24/7 via text for anyone in crisis. You can text SHOUT to 85258 in the UK to text with a trained Crisis Volunteer

For children and young people

- [ChildLine](#) provides a helpline for any child who is worried or needs help. You can call

0800 1111 any time for free or have an [online chat](#) with a counsellor.

- [The Mix](#) provides a free confidential [helpline](#), [crisis text line](#) and online service for under 25s that aims to find young people the best help, whatever the problem.

For parents and carers

- [Young Minds](#) has a [Parents' and Carers' Helpline](#) if you are worried about a child or young person's behaviour or mental health.

Latest updates on this page

Updates in this version (4 May 2020)

- Added helpline section.
- Added link to Change4Life indoor activities

Updates in version 1 May 2020

- Newborn babies: added a link to advice from the Institute of Health Visiting and RCPCH on the 6 - 8 week check during COVID-19.

Updates in version 27 April 2020

- Added NSPCC resources on talking to children, children with special educational needs, keeping children safe and wellbeing.
- Added link to resources for families of people with severe learning disabilities from the Challenging Behaviour Foundation.
- Added link to COVID-19 storybook for children that is available in 30 languages.
- Added links to E-safety resources from the UK Government and the Children's Commissioner.

Downloads

[Advice for parents during coronavirus: what do do if your child is unwell or injured - poster \(English\)](#)272.17 KB

[Advice for parents during coronavirus: what do do if your child is unwell or injured - poster \(Welsh\)](#)339.15 KB

[COVID-19 child friendly poster](#)472.64 KB

[Guidance: How to tell children that someone has died](#)128.38 KB