



A lifetime of specialist care

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### **5<sup>th</sup> March 2020 – Paediatric PCD team statement on COVID-19 (Coronavirus outbreak):**

Presently we're advising our patients with PCD to follow the most up-to-date Public Health England advice on the GOV.UK PHE site for guidance on COVID-19 infection prevention and control (PHE, 2020):

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public>

As the situation is dynamic and changing daily, this link is to be used as a reference to the most up-to-date information. Anyone concerned about having the coronavirus should call NHS 111 and avoid presenting at a healthcare setting unless it is an emergency. NHS 111 will undertake a clinical assessment and then offer advice and if necessary, arrange for testing or treatment in the right place depending on whether they fit the case definition.

There are **designated coronavirus treatment centres around the country** and if you have suspected coronavirus you will be directed to one of these to receive best treatment and limit the spread of the virus through the protocols established by Public Health England. Our specialist medical team will be in close liaison with any local healthcare setting for specific advice, guidance and support of the management of any PCD-specific issues in this case.

The PCD Family Support Group have issued this advice: <http://pcdsupport.org.uk/update-on-coronavirus-for-pcd-patients-and-families/>

It is essential to practise good infection prevention, wash your hands frequently, avoid touching your mouth and nose. All the same precautions that you would follow to avoid flu - particularly **handwashing with warm water and soap for at least 20 seconds**. Using alcohol gel is acceptable. Having a working thermometer can help accurately identify fever – just as you might routinely do if you might suspect an infective exacerbation of your chest. It is important to continue to pursue a fit and healthy lifestyle and importantly to engage in daily PCD therapies including all your prescribed inhaled/nebulised medicines. With this in mind, if your child requires a treatment course of antibiotics please let us know and we can email/fax your GP, for use if you suspect the start of an infective exacerbation. As of 5<sup>th</sup> March, clinics are still running as normal, but this is under very close review. We will contact you prior to your appointment if this changes.

Please see the below links for the relevant guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-self-isolation-for-patients-undergoing-testing/advice-sheet-home-isolation>

The NHS and WHO have some helpful information here:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/wuhan-novel-coronavirus/>

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/advice-for-public/myth-busters>

For travel advice:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/travel-advice-novel-coronavirus>

Best Wishes,

The PCD Team