

Here is some information for our WS families from the senior microbiology consultant and chief medical officer at Birmingham Children's & Women's Hospital who have approved the following statement which might be of some help for you.

Some of you have contacted us worried about your child or family getting coronavirus. We wanted to share the current advice that we are following at BWCH (March 5th).

Information from colleagues in China suggests that children seem at lower risk for getting coronavirus compared with adults, and the infection seems to affect them less severely. The infection also appears to affect pregnant women less severely. The group with the most severe disease seems to be the very elderly, those over 85 years.

Despite the press coverage, it is important to remember that the number of cases of infected people in the UK is still very low. The NHS is reviewing the situation every day. At present, there is no reason that people should avoid any normal activities, other than travelling to certain places overseas. However, you may wish to make your own choices about attending large gatherings of people.

If your child has a condition where your doctors recommend 'sick day rules', then please do follow them if your child becomes unwell. If in any doubt, please contact your child's main medical team.

We are following the advice from the NHS: www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/, and recommend you use this website regularly for up to date information. The recommendations today (5th March) are:

How to avoid catching or spreading coronavirus:

DO:

- wash your hands with soap and water often - do this for at least 20 seconds
- always wash your hands when you get home or into work or school
- use hand sanitizer gel if soap and water are not available
- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- put used tissues in the bin straight away and wash your hands afterwards.
- try to avoid close contact with people who are unwell

DON'T:

- do not touch your eyes, nose or mouth if your hands are not clean

Thankyou

Timothy Barrett

Consultant paediatric endocrinology and diabetes