

Advice regarding COVID-19 and what to do if your child is receiving chemotherapy and has a fever and cough – March 2020

COVID-19 appears to be a mild infection in children and even in the immunocompromised we do not expect severe infection in the majority of our patients. Below is advice that is current, however, this is an ever-changing situation.

General advice is available here:

www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public

For children undergoing chemotherapy please see this national guidance:

www.cclg.org.uk/coronavirus-advice

If your child is receiving chemotherapy

If your child has fever and has no respiratory symptoms, follow the normal pathway for open access.

If your child has a cough and no fever, self-isolate at home but contact Kamran's Ward or your local hospital if your child gets a fever or has breathing difficulty. You can give paracetamol for symptoms but check the temperature first (and regularly) to make sure your child does not have a fever.

If your child has fever (> 38°C) and a cough call Kamran's or your local hospital and we will isolate your child on arrival. Your child will have a full blood count, blood cultures and if your child is neutropenic they will be admitted and treated as febrile neutropenia and tested for COVID-19. If your child is not neutropenic then they may be sent home with oral antibiotics if well enough.

If your child has completed chemotherapy

If your child has finished treatment less than six months ago, and is unwell, call Kamran's for advice but if they have severe respiratory symptoms go to the Emergency Department at your local hospital.

If your child finished treatment more than six months ago they should not be at more risk than the general population. Follow the advice to stay at home for 14 days if your child has symptoms, stay hydrated and take regular paracetamol. If they have worsening symptoms, call 111.

For any non-urgent queries please contact kamransdaycare@ouh.nhs.uk. We aim to get back to you within two working days.

Paediatric Haematology and Oncology Team at Oxford Children's Hospital

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