

Child Death Prevention Newsletter

Issue April 2020

...Important advice for parents during coronavirus

This newsletter is designed to raise awareness of the work of the Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) and to bring news on our ongoing campaigns.

Paediatricians want to send out a clear message to parents and carers: 'If your child is very unwell, we want to see them – we don't want parents to wait or to worry'

Children generally do NOT suffer serious illness as a result of COVID 19. This applies to even our most vulnerable children, yet some of the conditions that children will become ill with are far more serious.

If parents are concerned they should contact their GP or dial 111 or, if very worried, go to a local urgent care centre or to A&E. Hospitals have measures in place to help protect people from COVID-19 and full personal protection equipment is available for all consultations taking place with patients in our local hospitals.

The Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health have prepared a leaflet giving advice of when to seek medical help:



RED

If your child has any of the following:

- Becomes pale, mottled and feels abnormally cold to the touch
- Has pauses in their breathing, or irregular breathing pattern or starts grunting
- Severe difficulty in breathing becoming agitated or unresponsive
- Is going blue round the lips
- Has a fit/seizure
- Becomes extremely distressed (crying inconsolably), confused, very lethargic / difficult to wake or unresponsive
- Develops a rash that does not disappear with pressure (the 'Glass test')
- Has testicular pain, especially in teenage boys

You need urgent help:

Go to the nearest A&E or phone 999

Turn over for



AMBER

and



GREEN



If your child has any of the following:

- Is finding it hard to breathe
- Seems dehydrated (dry mouth, sunken eyes, no tears, drowsy or passing less urine than usual)
- Is becoming drowsy / sleepy or irritable and you are unable to settle them - especially if they remain drowsy or irritable despite their fever coming down
- Has extreme shivering or complains of muscle pain
- Babies under 3 months of age with a temperature above 38°C / 100.4°F
- Infants 3-6 months of age with a temperature above 39°C / 102.2°F
- For all infants and children with a fever above 38°C for more than 5 days
- Has persistent vomiting and/or persistent severe abdominal pain
- Has blood in their poo or wee
- Any limb injury causing reduced movement, persistent pain or head injury causing persistent crying or drowsiness
- Is getting worse or if you are worried

You need to contact a doctor or nurse today:

Please ring your GP surgery or call NHS 111 - dial 111

If symptoms persist for 4 hours or more and you have not been able to speak to either a GP or 111, then take your child to the nearest A&E



If none of the previous features highlighted are present:

- You can continue to provide your child care at home. Information is also available on NHS Choices
- Additional advice is available to families for coping with crying of well babies at <http://iconcope.org>
- Additional advice is available for children with complex health needs and disabilities at <https://www.wellchild.org.uk/2020/04/02/my-child-is-unwell-but-not-with-covid-19/>

Self care:

Continue providing your child's care at home. If you are still concerned about your child, call NHS 111 - dial 111