

Respiratory illness Rapid Assessment / Discharge

Carer advice leaflet



Is it safe for my child to go home?

Your child has been triaged by a fully qualified, experienced health professional. They have used a rapid assessment tool which has highlighted your child as suitable for discharge home.

This pathway has been agreed by both the Paediatric and the Paediatric Emergency Medicine Consultant teams as being safe and appropriate.

Why has this tool been introduced?

We have introduced this tool as we expect a large number of attendances to the hospital with mild respiratory illnesses. This rapid assessment is likely to reduce the risk of infections by reducing time in a hospital environment where infection can spread much more easily.

What do I do if my child gets more unwell?

We are confident that your child has had the right assessment and is safe for discharge today.

However, we can never be 100% certain about how any illness will develop over the next few days.

We would **NOT** be worried if your child seems a little unwell with some fevers over the next 2 or 3 days.

If they have a cough this may continue for even longer, this is alright provided they are generally well otherwise.

They may seem less well for a short time if they have a high fever.

When should I worry?

We would like you to watch out for the following symptoms:

- Struggling to breathe or breathless
- Not drinking and keeping down reasonable amounts of fluids
- Persistently not smiling, not interested in toys/games
- Less aware of their surroundings or people
- Pale or lethargic (persistently tired)
- You have a feeling that they are generally 'going downhill'

If any of these things occur please seek medical advice, contact your GP surgery or dial 111.

If you think you need urgent help, go to the nearest Hospital Emergency Department (A&E) or dial 999.

Does my child have coronavirus / Covid-19?

There is the potential that this respiratory illness is Covid-19. However, there is good evidence that the vast majority of children have a relatively mild illness, even those with underlying medical conditions.

There is no treatment for Covid-19 and children will not be swabbed unless they need to be admitted to hospital.

You should continue to treat fever and respiratory symptoms in your child as you would have done prior to the coronavirus epidemic.

Do we need to self isolate?

Yes. Your child and their entire household need to self isolate, please see the gov.uk website for the most up to date advice regarding this.

For further information please see the following links:

www.what0-18.nhs.uk

www.gov.uk/coronavirus

