

Coronavirus: Parent information for newborn babies



Although the risks are very low, you may be concerned that your baby could get coronavirus. This leaflet tells you what to look out for. Do not delay seeking help if you have concerns.

How will I know if my baby has coronavirus?

Many babies with the virus will not show signs of illness and will recover fully. Some can develop an unstable temperature and/or a cough. Babies with infections do not always develop a fever.

- If your baby has a cough, fever or feels unusually hot or cold, but otherwise well, then call NHS 111
- If your baby is jaundiced or feeding poorly call your midwifery team
- If your baby shows any signs which concern you in relation to their breathing, colour or movement, then call 999 straight away.

(See more in 'Illness in newborn babies' leaflet)

How to help

Reduce your baby's risk of catching coronavirus by:

- Hand washing before touching the baby, breast pumps or bottles
- Hand washing after nappy changes and contact with other members of the family
- Avoiding coughing or sneezing on the baby whilst feeding
- Following pump cleaning recommendations after each use
- If you feel unwell, ask someone who is well to feed your baby with expressed milk
- If using a bottle follow sterilisation guide-lines fully.



Is my baby at risk?

Babies can potentially catch coronavirus after birth from anyone infected with the virus, even if that person does not feel unwell. It is recommended that you take your baby home as soon as it is safe for you to do so, and follow government advice for self-isolation and social-distancing.

In particular, you should keep your baby away from people with a cough, fever or other viral symptoms such as a runny nose, vomiting or diarrhoea.

Midwife contact details (write your midwife contact details below):

[Empty space for writing midwife contact details]

If your baby has been on the neonatal unit or transitional care ward because they were born prematurely or were unwell, please also access the Bliss website: www.bliss.org.uk.

For general information on newborn jaundice, feeding difficulties and other signs of illness in the newborn then further information can be accessed by visiting www.nhs.uk and searching 'illness in a baby' and 'newborn jaundice'.

For any non-emergency concerns you can also call NHS 111 if you are unable to contact your midwife.

For more information, please visit:
www.nhs.uk/coronavirus

