

Long Term Ventilation Service
Nottingham Children's Hospital

Consultant: -

Dr David Thomas & Dr Matthew Hurley

Specialist Paediatric Respiratory

Physiotherapists: -

Nicky McNarry and Hannah Borrill

Nurse Specialists: -

Adele Frost and Rachel Gregory

Team e-mail LTVteam@nuh.nhs.uk

Nottingham Children's Hospital
Queen's Medical Centre
E Floor, East Block
Derby Road
Nottingham
NG7 2UH

www.nuh.nhs.uk

Dear parents/carers and young people on breathing support,

We are aware that the COVID 19 Pandemic is causing concern, particularly for families with children and young people on breathing support.

We want to share our plan and offer links to the most up to date advice:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public>

and specific information from Well Child <https://www.wellchild.org.uk/2020/03/11/covid-19-information-for-parents-and-carers/> .

The evidence is that children and young people have not been found to be in the high risk group. The home ventilated communities in Europe have not been found to be at high risk, according to our professional network. However families will be making individual decisions for their children with complex medical problems.

Personal hygiene is the cornerstone of preventing the spread of this virus. This straightforward measure should be performed well and expected of all.

Self-isolation, as per government advice, is important in limiting the number of individuals exposed to the virus. Awareness of individuals with existing health problems should help motivate everyone in the community to do this. Please do challenge poor practice or inadequate arrangements.

Please:

- Ensure you request and maintain sufficient supplies of consumables (1 month)
- Adequate calpol & general health supplies
- Inform the hospital and other agencies of any changes in your contact details
- Keep available and refresh awareness of your personal care plans, ventilator prescriptions etc
- Talk as a family about your preparedness, in particular if carers are unwell.
- Keep in daily contact with your nurseries and schools about their situation
- Stay up to date with recommendations from Public Health England

The numbers of children requiring support by the Long Term Ventilation Team has grown substantially over recent years without an increase in staff numbers. During particularly busy times, and potentially at times of staff illness, calls to the team will need to be prioritised. Therefore a central phone number will be used to enable all families to contact the team. Text messages to individual team members will no longer be supported and will not be read.

Contact will be through 0115 9249924 ext 82207 in office hours.

As usual out of hours contacts through Paediatric critical care - 0115 9709232

Email address is unchanged – ltvteam@nuh.nhs.uk.

This will enable us to provide a timely response in an appropriate manner.

During this period we will be prioritising the work of the team, for example:

- School visits and team around the child meetings may be deferred or delivered in a different way.
- Routine equipment servicing deferred **unless in cases of equipment failure**
- Routine sleep studies will be deferred

We very much appreciate that these changes will be a significant change for many and that the next few months will be a worrying time. We will do all we can to support you during this period.

With best wishes,

Dr David Thomas and Dr Matthew Hurley
Adele Frost & Rachel Gregory
Nicky McNarry & Hannah Borrill