

Gloucestershire County Council

COVID-19 (Coronavirus)

Information for parents and carers

Issue 3



Co-produced with

Gloucestershire
Parent • Carer
Forum



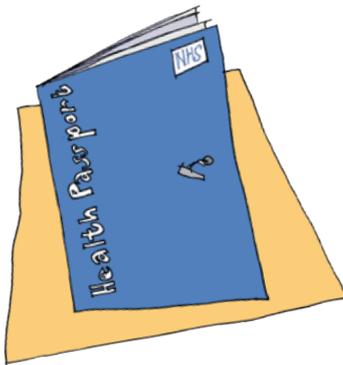
gloucestershire
COUNTY COUNCIL

COVID-19

Information for parents and carers

This is the third issue of frequently asked questions from parents and carers, and we have answered these as fully as possible below. In the current climate, national information and guidance can change over time, and so we will always do our best to keep you up to date with latest guidance.

Q1: How does a Health Passport work and when would I complete one?



Gloucestershire Hospitals Trust wants to ensure that everyone receives the care and treatment they need when they attend the hospital. The Trust appreciates that Adults and Children with a Learning Disability may require some reasonable adjustments.

The Hospital has developed a Health Passport, which is a patient held document that should be filled in when the Child or Young Person is well; in anticipation for if a hospital admission should be required. The passport can be printed out from the Gloucestershire Hospitals Trust page here: https://www.gloshospitals.nhs.uk/documents/9657/My_Health_Passport_-_Easy_Read_v_Final_Jba00x1.pdf or alternatively a hardcopy can be requested from Strategic Health Facilitation Team, Gloucestershire Health and Care NHS Foundation Trust, Ambrose House, Meteor Court, Barnwood, Gloucester GL3 4GG.

The passport is easy-read so can be filled out by or with the Young Person, it will then be put at the front of their notes for Clinicians to see at first glance of the file. The Health Passport gives the Clinician a brief overview of the Young Person and is split into Red (Essential), Amber (Important) and Green (Preferable) sections.

The Trust also have two Learning Disability Liaison Nurses that can be contacted for help and advice when entering hospital, they support Adults, Young People, their families and Carers and can be contacted on **0300 422 4953/4985**, Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm.

If you have any comments on the newly updated Health Passport please contact the Disabilities Hub Team at disabilitiescommissioning@gloucestershire.gov.uk they would really appreciate your feedback.

Q2. What is the COVID-19 Grab and Go Form for and how is it related to the Health Passport?

The Grab and Go form should be read in conjunction with the Health Passport explained above, and should be filled in prior to or on arrival at hospital (if attending for corona virus related reasons).

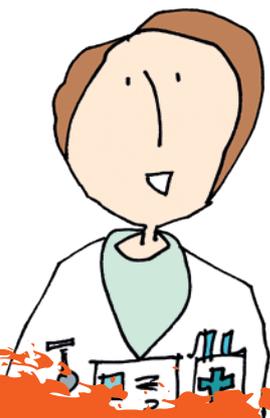
This form will help Professionals to understand your Child's medical history and their needs to help inform decisions and develop a care plan during their time in the hospital.

The Grab and Go Form can be found here https://www.learningdisabilityengland.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/C0381_NHS-Covid-19-Grab-and-Go-LDA-Form-.pdf and there has also been guidance published to help fill this in. The guidance is aimed more towards Adults with Learning Disabilities who may be filling this in themselves, however you may find the top tips for families and carers at the end useful to know. The guidance document can be found here <https://www.learningdisabilityengland.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/NHS-Covid-19-Grab-and-Go-LDA-Guidance-notes.pdf>.

Although, it might feel daunting filling in this form, we encourage families to do so as part of their contingency planning. It is always best to be prepared where possible, particularly during this period of uncertainty.

Q3. I have heard about ReSPECT, what is this?

ReSPECT is a national initiative and stands for Recommended Summary Plan for Emergency Care and Treatment. ReSPECT is an approach to encourage people of all ages to have an input into their own care planning, to inform future and anticipatory emergency situations, where this option may not be available. The process brings both patient choice and clinical judgement together to inform a plan that can be viewed by health and care professionals in an emergency. Similarly to the health passport this form should stay with you or your child and be easily accessible. The ReSPECT form is usually completed with a Health Professional or GP with the Young Person and their Parents.



Q4. With advice constantly changing, what is the latest information and advice on Shielding?

The guidance on Shielding at present is that if your child (or yourself) has received a letter telling you that you need to be Shielded, you must stay at home, not attend any gatherings and avoid contact with anyone displaying COVID-19 symptoms. The Government is currently advising people to shield until the end of June, but this is being monitored closely. If you have received a shielding letter, it's likely that you will already have received a call from the National Shielding Service, the Community Help Hub or a call on behalf of your GP Practice (or potentially all of these). These calls are to carry out a welfare check and offer your family support with things like food deliveries or getting medication. If for any reason you had declined support or previously did not need it but this has since changed you can get through to the Community Help Hub on 01452 583519 or alternatively go onto the website <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/gloucestershires-community-help-hub/> and click on 'I Need Help'.



If you have not received a letter from the government, nor have you been contacted by your GP Practice and you are still concerned, please contact your GP Practice to discuss this.

Q5. What are you doing to support families who are struggling in this climate?

Alongside the support discussed in previous Issues of the Newsletter, Gloucestershire County Council have developed an information and support page for children and families which can be found here:



<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/covid-19-information-and-advice/support-for-children-and-families-during-covid-19/>. This page is being updated regularly with new information, and there is now a specific section around supporting children with additional needs.

For Families that may be struggling financially, the Children's Fund has been set-up as a strand of the Emergency Living Fund, which has been approved by Government in recent weeks. The Children's Fund can be accessed by Families that are in financial difficulty specifically caused by the Corona virus. In order to access the Children's Fund your application must be supported by a Professional (ie. Social Worker or Family Support Worker), but the Emergency Living Fund can be applied for by yourself. If you wish to start an application or find out more about the Fund details can be found here: <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/gloucestershire-welfare-support-scheme> where you will also find the eligibility criteria for each of the funds.

Government Advice on Social Distancing and Hygiene

Although, we are all now quite used to the Social Distancing measures that have been put in place, it is still useful to remind ourselves what we should be doing to keep ourselves and our families' safe throughout this time. The Government have produced a helpful guide designed to explain to Children and Young People what Shielding means and how to look after extremely vulnerable people who are more likely to become unwell if they get the Corona virus, this guidance can be found here <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19/covid-19-guidance-on-protecting-people-most-likely-to-get-unwell-from-coronavirus-shielding-young-peoples-version>

(updated 5th May 2020).



The advice remains that where possible when going outside of your house for any reason, you maintain a 2 metre distance from others, and wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds when you arrive home. You should continue to wash your hands regularly either with soap and water or by using hand gel.



Well Child

Follow the link below for further information on COVID-19 from this national charity for sick children.

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



We realise this is a challenging time for everyone and so please visit the link below to support your wellbeing.

Gloucestershire Carers Hub 0800 111 9000 or contact them via their webpage which is <https://gloucestershirecarershub.co.uk>

See also <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/public-health/advice-on-covid-19/looking-after-your-wellbeing/>

Schools re-opening

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

This advice and guidance relates to the school year groups PRIMARY Reception, Year 1, Year 6 and SECONDARY Year 10 and Year 12



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Q1. The aim is to return on 1st June but when will it be confirmed?

The government will only confirm on 28th May if selected year groups will return on 1st June. They will only proceed with opening schools if the tests are met.

On 16 April the Government presented five tests for easing measures as:

1. Protect the NHS's ability to cope. We must be confident that we are able to provide sufficient critical care and specialist treatment right across the UK.
2. See a sustained and consistent fall in the daily death rates from COVID-19 so we are confident that we have moved beyond the peak.
3. Reliable data from SAGE showing that the rate of infection is decreasing to manageable levels across the board.
4. Be confident that the range of operational challenges, including testing capacity and PPE, are in hand, with supply able to meet future demand.
5. Be confident that any adjustments to the current measures will not risk a second peak of infections that overwhelm the NHS.

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Q2. Which children will return to primary school?

The following children will be able to return to school on 1st June;

- Nursery (if applicable)
- Reception
- Year 1
- Year 6

Priority Children - vulnerable children and children of critical workers, who have been able to attend since March

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Q3. Which students will return to secondary school?

Secondary schools will be making different arrangements and will be in contact with the parents of students in Year 10 and year 12 to confirm schools plans from 1st June.

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Q4. I have to go back to work, can I send my child in even if they aren't in the selected year groups?

At this stage schools are only open for the selected year groups plus vulnerable children and children of critical workers who have been able to attend throughout the coronavirus outbreak.

If you have been asked to return to work but do not have childcare, please talk to your employer to make necessary adjustments.

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Q5. My child has additional or 1-1 support at school will they still get this?

As part of risk assessing and planning for return to school the level of support your child needs will be identified and schools will be planning on how best to provide this. Schools may not be able to provide the consistent staffing your child usually has but will make best endeavours to put in place support that is the best match possible to your child.

Your school will be able to give you details about the support they are planning for your child's individual needs.

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Q6. I don't feel comfortable about sending my child to school. Do they have to attend?

Schools are looking forward to welcoming your child back to school and have taken every precaution to ensure the school environment is as safe as possible. However, we understand that some parents, for a variety of reasons, may wish to keep their child at home and continue for them to learn from home. It is not compulsory for children to attend. Please let the school know that you will not be sending your child in.

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Q7. Will I be fined if I keep my children at home?

If you do not send your child in, you will not be fined at this time. We envisage school attendance fines will not be issued until September at the earliest, but this is not confirmed.

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Q8. Where classrooms in schools are small can groups be smaller than 15?

The maximum group size is 15. DfE guidance asks that schools calculate how many children can be accommodated in temporary teaching groups and this is dependent upon the size of the classrooms and the layout of the school.

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Q9. How will you limit the risk of infection for my child?

Schools are currently carrying out a risk assessment ahead of re-opening so that they can put in place a comprehensive programme of measures to limit the risk to staff and children.

Due to the age of the children who will be returning, social distancing will be a challenge. Therefore the government have suggested;

- **smaller class sizes** - with a maximum of 15 children per class
- **rearrange classrooms** - ensuring desks are spaced out as far as possible.
- **limit mixing** - children will stay in their groups and be assigned specific staff members
- **staggered timetables** - Limiting number of children on lunch and breaks, changes to pick up and drop off times
- **minimising contact with individuals who are unwell** by ensuring that those who have coronavirus symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend school
- **cleaning hands more often than usual** - wash hands thoroughly for 20 seconds with running water and soap and dry them thoroughly or use alcohol hand rub or sanitiser ensuring that all parts of the hands are covered
- **ensuring good respiratory hygiene** - promote the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach
- **cleaning frequently touched surfaces often** using standard products, such as disinfectant



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Q10. My school is considering marking out the floors to ensure that children are never less than 2m apart, is this something that all schools should be doing?

This is definitely one of the measures that schools should consider but this will depend on each school's situation. It is not mandatory. Floor marking is one of the measures included in the risk assessment. For example, in areas where queues may develop floor marking can indicate safe distance rules. Floor marking may also be used along shared corridors to keep pupils apart on one side.



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Q11. Will the school day start and end at the same time?

There may be some changes to the timings of the school day to ensure schools can safely manage drop off and collection of children. Schools will clearly communicate these arrangements with parents before the school returns.

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Q12. How will I drop off and collect my child?

Collection and drop off of children may be a different process to that a few months ago. Schools are currently drawing up plans to ensure social distancing can happen at these times. Further details on the arrangements will be sent to parents and may be displayed on the schools website.

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Q13. What if one of my children is in one of the returning years but another is not?

Only children in these year groups can return to school from 1 June. This does not include siblings in different year groups unless those siblings are in a priority group, for example, vulnerable children and children of critical workers.

The Government hopes that all primary school children can come back to school before the summer holidays, for a month if feasible, although this will be kept under review. Reducing the risks for children and staff is of utmost priority

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Q14. Should my child wear a face covering, mask or other PPE?

Government guidance states, "Wearing a face covering or face mask in schools or other education settings is not recommended"

Staff will only wear PPE when;

- ➔ a child whose care routinely already involves the use of PPE due to their intimate care needs.

- ➔ a child becomes unwell with symptoms of coronavirus while in their setting and needs direct personal care until they can return home. A face mask should be worn by the supervising adult if a distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained. If contact with the child or young person is necessary, then gloves, an apron and a face mask should be worn by the supervising adult. If a risk assessment determines that there is a risk of splashing to the eyes, for example from coughing, spitting, or vomiting, then eye protection should also be worn.

Gloucestershire County Council have committed to providing all schools and early years settings with an emergency PPE pack of resources for these types of scenario's.

If you have any concerns please speak to the head teacher at your school.

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Q15. Will there be COVID-19 testing and contact tracing in education and childcare settings?

Testing is already available for all school staff and their household members.

When the wider cohort of children are invited to return to their education settings, all those children eligible to attend, and members of their households, will have access to testing if they display symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19).

To access testing parents should use the 111 online coronavirus service if their child is 5 or over. They should call 111 if the child is under 5.

This will enable them to get back into childcare or education, and their parents or carers to get back to work, if the test proves to be negative.



In the event of a child or member of staff testing positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), the relevant group of people within the school with whom the child has mixed closely (their cohort), should be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 14 days. As part of the national test and trace programme, if other cases are detected within the cohort or in the wider setting, Public Health England's local Health Protection teams will conduct a rapid investigation and will advise schools and other settings on the most appropriate action to take.

Q16. Usually someone else collects my child from school as I have to go into work, can someone from another household collect my child?

Government guidance would only allow someone to pick up a child from another household if a 2m distance is kept between them. This would be very difficult with young children and therefore we would advise only members from your household should collect your child.

Q17. Will Breakfast Club and Afterschool Club start again?

At this stage individual schools will need to consider the health and safety of pupils and their local circumstances to determine whether they can open wrap around care for children. You will need to make contact with your school to clarify local arrangements.

Q18. Will my child get a hot meal or a packed lunch?

To help with staggered lunch times, it is likely that schools will start with the provision of a packed lunch. We can then assess meal numbers and if it's worth opening up the school kitchens. Caterlink and schools are keen for a "normal service" to resume as

soon as possible so that the children get a hot meal but the provision of a packed lunch will reduce the contact required for serving food. Parents will be kept informed of any changes to lunch time food.

Q19. Will I still receive hampers or packed lunches over the May half term?

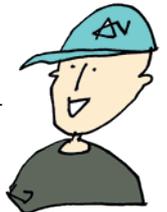
If you have been in receipt of the above, this will continue through the half term

Q20. Will the DfE voucher scheme continue over the May half term?

According to latest guidance, this provision will not be available over the half term break

Q21. If I don't send my child in, will I still get my FSM voucher?

The provision of food vouchers for those eligible under the benefits criteria will also continue to be available where needed for those not attending school. Your school will let you know if government guidance is updated.



Q22. Will my child be taught by their usual teacher?

Schools cannot guarantee this as each class needs to be split. The aim is to have at least one adult who will be familiar to the children in each class. This may be the teacher or a teaching assistant as far as possible. Please contact your school for clarification.

Q23. Will my child's school be open for the summer holiday break?

The Government has not yet issued any guidance about opening in the summer, schools are currently planning to be closed in the summer break. Schools are encouraged to make arrangements that are consistent for pupils and their families.

The Gloucestershire Carers Hub message during COVID-19



Carers and partner agencies

We understand that this is a worrying time for carers and, as such, are doing all we can to support carers through this situation.

Most of our communication channels remain open, though for the safety of carers and our staff, we are no longer providing face to face services. We are still available to offer support to carers during our normal opening hours (9am to 5pm Monday to Friday, but we will keep this under review and amend as appropriate) including information, advice and guidance over the phone and through our website, email and social media. Please do keep checking our website and social media for up to date information. The latest information from the government relevant for carers can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-social-distancing-and-for-vulnerable-people/guidance-on-social-distancing-for-everyone-in-the-uk-and-protecting-older-people-and-vulnerable-adults>

At times like this contingency planning is at the forefront of our mind. Therefore, if you would like to talk about what might happen if you or your cared for becomes ill, please do phone. Whilst we may not be able to process registrations for the Carers Emergency Scheme as normal, we will continue to start the registration process for any carer who wishes to do so. We would request that carers are mindful that the registration processes may take longer than usually expected. It is really helpful to talk through emergency planning, even if you do not formally wish to register with the Carers Emergency Scheme. Information regarding the local Carers Emergency Scheme is available- <https://gloucestershirecarershub.co.uk/carers-emergency-scheme/>

We recognise that this is an increasingly isolating time for carers and we want to assure carers in Gloucestershire that we are here if you want to talk to someone. We will also be providing outreach calls to carers known to us, to offer emotional support, information, advice and guidance, as well as a conversation about contingency plans.

Of further interest may be the Jointly App which is supported by Carers UK. The app is available free of charge to all carers registered with the Gloucestershire Carers Hub. The app is there to support you with your caring role, and you can allow multiple individuals to log in and update information. The app can act as a live record of what is happening with the person you care for including appointments, updating medical details and medication.



Contact Gloucestershire Carers Hub

If you are a carer, please get in touch. If you know someone who is a carer, please look out for them at this time:

Phone: 0300 111 9000
Web: www.gloucestershirecarershub.co.uk
Email: carers@peopleplus.co.uk

Social media

Facebook: Gloucestershirecarershub
Twitter: @GCarersHub
Instagram: Gloucestershire_Carers_Hub

For Young Carers, please contact:

Gloucestershire Young Carers

Phone: 01452 733060
Web: <http://www.glosyoungcarers.org.uk>

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Gloucestershire Parent Carer Forum

Phone: 07494 704564
Web: www.glosparentcarerforum.org.uk
Email: info@glosparentcarerforum.org.uk

Social media

Facebook: Gloucestershireparentcarers
Twitter: @CarerForum



Co-produced by Gloucestershire County Council Children and Families Commissioning Team and Gloucestershire Parent Carer Forum.