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| **Neonatal Outpatients**  **<insert hospital name>** |  |

**Information for patients attending neonatal outpatient clinics -**

<insert Health Board logo>

**including infants currently on home oxygen**

We understand that this is a worrying time and hope you find this information helpful.

The majority of children with Coronavirus infection have a mild, self limiting illness. However, as a precautionary measure, our health board is advising reducing the number of children coming to outpatient clinics in <insert city/town>.

We are therefore moving to telephone and video consultations. A member of neonatal staff will get in touch with you close to the date of your planned appointment to discuss this with you. If using the video consultation system we will send you instructions on how to do this.

If your neonatal doctor feels it is essential to see your baby/child in the outpatient clinic, we will discuss this with you and you should attend your appointment as advised. Please do not bring other children to this appointment. Where possible, please attend with one parent only unless a second parent is required for twins or help with interpretation for example.

**Home Oxygen**

If your baby or child is currently on oxygen we advise they remain on the same amount of oxygen and do not reduce until asked to by your neonatal doctor. If your baby or child is well, there is no need to increase their oxygen.

At the present time we will not be performing routine home oxygen saturation studies.

**Additional Information**

If your baby is currently on home oxygen due to lung problems, or stopped their oxygen within the last month, they are considered in the ‘vulnerable’ group within the community.

As such, the advice is that they should be “shielded”.

Shielding is a measure to protect vulnerable children. This means they should not go out of the house and everyone in the house should follow the social distancing rules. If someone within the household needs to leave the house for work, they can do so, but should be very careful with hand hygiene and changing clothes when they return home.

The situation is changing frequently. The most up-to-date national advice on COVID-19 infection can be found here:

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

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

<https://www.rcpch.ac.uk/resources/covid-19-resources-general-public>

If you are concerned that your baby/child is unwell you should call NHS24 on 111 or use the NHS24 coronavirus service <https://111.nhs.uk/covid-19>. Please avoid presenting at a healthcare setting unless it is an emergency. NHS24 will undertake an assessment and then offer advice.

**If you have any questions please contact the neonatal secretaries on <insert phone no.> or <insert phone no.>**