

Advice for parents/carers in Northern Ireland of babies less than three months old during coronavirus

It can be confusing to know what to do when your baby is unwell during the coronavirus pandemic. Remember that the NHS is still providing safe care.

GP practices and hospitals have made changes to help reduce the risk of infection. Only one parent/carer will be able to attend A&E with their child. Please use the hand sanitisers provided, wear a face covering in enclosed spaces and maintain social distancing.

Remember: if your baby is unwell, seek advice and medical attention. Here is some advice to help:



RED

If your baby has any of the following signs:

- Pale, mottled (blotchy) skin which feels unusually cold.
- Is stiff or rigid for a long time or makes repeated, jerky movement of arms or legs that doesn't stop when you hold them (a fit or seizure).
- Is difficult to wake.
- Has a rash that does not disappear when a glass is gently pressed against the skin.
- Has a hot chest, face or back and is sweaty or clammy (a temperature of 38°C / 100.4°F or higher) unless this is within two days of vaccinations and there are no other signs from this box or the **AMBER** box below.
- Is too breathless to feed, has pauses in their breathing lasting more than 10 seconds and is grunting or going blue.
- Green vomit (like the colour of spinach or green washing up liquid).

Please seek urgent help if you are frightened because your baby looks very unwell.

You need urgent help

Go to the nearest A&E department or call 999



AMBER

If your baby has any of the following signs:

- Difficulty breathing, including: breathing fast all the time; widening their nostrils or pulling in the muscles below the ribs when breathing.
- Not interested in feeding and/or looks dehydrated (dry mouth, sunken eyes, no tears, or no wet nappies in the last 8 hours).
- Is increasingly sleepy or irritable (crying continuously and won't calm down).
- Has yellow skin or whites of their eyes, which is quickly becoming worse.
- Blood in the poo.
- Very pale (white or grey) poo - keep a sample to show the doctor.
- Shivering.
- Keeps being sick.

Please seek advice if your baby is getting worse or if you are worried.

Immediately contact your GP or GP Out of Hours (visit <http://www.gpoutofhours.hscni.net/>) and make an appointment for your baby to be seen that day

During the current pandemic, it may be more difficult to get advice. If symptoms persist for 4 hours or more and you have not been able to speak to a member of staff from your GP practice or GP Out of Hours, then consider taking them to your nearest A&E.



GREEN

If your baby DOESN'T have any signs from the **RED** or **AMBER** boxes, the following are normal:

- Your baby is less than two weeks old (or three weeks old and breastfed) and looks slightly yellow, mainly on the face. (This may slowly increase over a day or two but will then start to fade).
- Has four to six wet nappies a day.
- Has green, brown, orange, yellow or black poo. (The poo of breastfed babies is usually yellow and can often look 'seedy' – it's a sign your baby is healthy).
- Continues to feed well with breast or formula milk.
- Baby wakes up often and cries to be fed.

Continue looking after your child at home

If you are still concerned about your baby, visit <https://www.ni-maternity.com/> or contact your GP.

Additional advice is also available for families to help cope with crying in otherwise well babies: <https://iconcope.org/>