

Being prepared in the event of hospitalisation or medical intervention for children and young people with learning disabilities and autism.

Some children and young people with learning disabilities and autism are in the vulnerable risk group for Covid-19. Should a CYP become unwell and/or be suspected of having coronavirus and require hospitalisation it is highly likely they may have to attend hospital alone. This would be very distressing for the CYP without the support of their parents/carers.

When we become distressed or feel unwell our communication skills are less effective. If you have a CYP on the roll of your school who you think might struggle to make their needs known; find it more difficult to respond to questions from medical staff, or who you know becomes highly anxious and dysregulated in stressful situations because of their social, emotional and mental health needs, then do have a conversation with their parent/carer about creating some sort of Health Passport that will help them in communicating or explaining more effectively should they have to go to hospital or become unwell at home. This will not only help the CYP, but it will also support medical staff in their communication with and understanding of the CYP. Having something ready to be used in an emergency may also help to reduce some of the anxiety parents/carers and CYP may have about becoming unwell.

Colleagues working with CYP with significant learning disabilities are in the process of creating Health Passports with parents/carers and some have uploaded guidance, frameworks and resources to their websites and, as an example, Marijke Miles, the head teacher of Baycroft, is pleased to share materials from her website with you. Follow [this link](#).

Clearly the examples on special school websites relate to CYP with more complex special needs than the majority of those CYP in mainstream schools. A slightly simplified pro forma is therefore attached as an example.

There is no expectation that school staff will complete Health Passports as you will not necessarily have all the relevant information to hand. It is however something that parents and carers might appreciate a conversation and information about.

If you have CYP with more complex needs on the roll of your school and would like to help their parents and carers to have something in place for their CYP please contact Sarah Kiel for further advice.

You may also find it useful to access previous advice posted on the Moodle about [writing social stories for CYP with LD and AS](#).

See below for the link to NHS guidance for their staff on treating CYP with learning difficulties and autism.



On 24th March the NHS published specific guidelines for its staff to support the management of patients with learning disabilities during the coronavirus pandemic.

Speciality guides for patient management during the coronavirus pandemic.

Clinical guide for front line staff to support the management of patients with a learning disability, autism or both during the coronavirus pandemic – relevant to all clinical specialities

24 March 2020 Version 1

This can be accessed by [clicking this link](#).