

Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Youth and Children with Special Healthcare Needs

BE INFORMED



Explore likely threats – evaluate your child’s susceptibility due to immune compromise or underlying chronic health conditions.



What medications, support and supplies will you need to shelter in place for a minimum of two weeks? Talk to your primary care provider for guidance on what you should do if you need to seek care outside of your home.



Evaluate the capacity to respond considering the strain on the health system you use. What supports will it take for you to alter typical care?



Talk to your supplier and in-home attendant providers about their response plans and alterations to typical schedules.

MAKE A PLAN

Assess your child’s specific needs – medical supplies, prescriptions, OTC drugs, equipment, food and supplements, water- different types for hydration, mixing medications and formulas, procedures, and equipment (bi-PAP, O2 concentrators), and adequate caretakers for sheltering in place for a minimum of two weeks.



Use personal protective hygiene habits (think NICU or PICU protocols) and limit persons coming and going in your home.



Consider screening caretakers or health care workers who come to your home each time (temperature checks, contact exposure questions).



Know when to call your primary care provider. Do not arrive at a medical facility without instruction!



BUILD A SUPPLIES & EQUIPMENT KIT



What does your child need on a daily basis to live and thrive? This should include medication, supply labels, and backup power sources, Multiply for a two week supply.



Develop an Emergency Information Form (EIF). This form is meant to give healthcare providers a snapshot of your child's medical condition(s), medications and special healthcare needs in an effort to optimize care during emergency or disaster situations.



If allowable or feasible, place advanced orders for supplies with your suppliers. Ask your provider to write a prescription for additional medicine, supplies or equipment.



Consider your child's mental and behavioral health. Comfort items are important for calming to reduce anxiety when routines are disrupted. Include items such as sensory needs, toys, and books.



Put together a kit for your caretakers as well. This can be a duplicate of the kit you make for your family. Are you prepared to take over fully if you are separated from your caregiver?

RESOURCES

Useful Links

[EMSC Innovation and Improvement Center](#) 

[Family Voices](#) 

[AAP: Children and Youth with Special Needs](#) 

[Pediatrics](#)

[Emergency Information Forms and Emergency Preparedness for Children With Special Health Care Needs](#) 

[CDC: Children and Youth with Special Healthcare Needs in Emergencies](#) 

Downloadable Resources

- [NPR Goats and Soda: What Kids Want to Know About Coronavirus](#)
- [Center for the Study of Traumatic Stress: Taking Care of Your Family During Coronavirus and Other Emerging Infectious Disease Outbreaks](#)
- [Relaxation Techniques](#)

