



Routine screening reviews at 6-8 weeks during COVID-19

Your baby should have had a routine physical examination at 6 to 8 weeks, usually by your GP. As you know, COVID-19 has placed a huge challenge on the on the NHS and, if this screening opportunity has been missed due to current circumstance, this Parent Tip advises what to look out for (please see page 2).

Your baby should have had a full physical examination soon after birth. This will have picked up many, but not all, of the problems which we look for during the 6-week postnatal check.

More information on Page 2

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The information in this resource was updated on 01/05/2020 and will be reviewed again in 05/2022 and when new evidence becomes available.

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If your baby does not have a 6-8 week check, you should ask yourself the following questions. **If the answer to any is “yes”, you should contact your health visitor or GP.**

Eyes

- Do you think your baby can't ever fully open both eyes?
- Do you think your baby doesn't make good eye contact and hold his/her gaze at you?
- Do you think that your baby doesn't follow your face if you move your head from side to side when standing near him/her (less than 1 metre)?
- Do you think that your baby's eyes shake/flicker/wobble?
- Do you think there is something unusual about, or in, your baby's eyes, for example, the dark central area (pupil) looks cloudy or the eyeball is an unusual shape or size?
- Do you think the whites of your baby's eyes are yellow?

Hips

- When you change your baby's nappy, do you find that one leg cannot be moved out sideways as far as the other?
- Does one leg seem to be longer than the other?
- Do you have any other concerns about your baby's hips?

Heart (If the answer to either of these is “yes”, you should speak to someone the same day)

- Does your baby seem breathless or sweaty, at any time, especially when feeding?
- Does your baby have blue, pale, blotchy, or ashen (grey) skin at any time?

Remember: If the answer to any of the questions above is “yes”, you should contact your health visitor or GP.

The routine 6-8 week review is also an opportunity for you to talk to your health visitor about any other issues you may have with your baby and to talk about how you are feeling. Further information regarding the 6-week postnatal review can be found on the NHS website:

<https://bit.ly/3e1x18T>

Vaccinations

If anything, it is more important than ever that your baby has all their vaccinations at the right time. Delaying them exposes your baby to the risk of getting very severe diseases. Your health visitor and practice nurse can give you more information.

Please see the following Parent Tips for further advice: -

Childhood Immunisations:

- Part 1: An introduction to childhood immunisations: <https://bit.ly/3aJKO2l>
- Part 2: Frequently asked questions <https://bit.ly/35lG3Ll>

Further information and help

If you have any other concerns about your baby, you should look online:

Healthier Together: <https://bit.ly/35bEShu>

NHS: <https://bit.ly/3a8IOAz>

For more minor problems, that you cannot find solutions to on [nhs.uk](https://www.nhs.uk), you should contact your health visitor or ring 111.

If your baby has been given an appointment to be seen again at the hospital, it is important that you attend, unless you are contacted to rearrange it.

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