

Annex 1: Updated shielding advice and maintaining the shielded patient list – key points

- Everyone who has been identified as clinically extremely vulnerable, including children and young people, should continue to follow the latest government shielding advice until 31 July.
- From Monday 6 July this advice is that:
 - You are still strongly advised to stay at home as much as possible and keep interactions outside to a minimum.
 - You no longer need to socially distance from people you live with.
 - If you want to, you can meet in a group of up to six people outdoors, including people from other households.
 - You may also form a 'support bubble' with one other household if you want to, but one of the households in the 'support bubble' should be a single adult household (either an adult living alone or with children under 18 only). You can all spend time together outside and inside each other's homes, including overnight.
- People who are shielding are still advised not to work outside their home. Statutory Sick Pay (SSP) is available for people who are unable to work from home or to be furloughed under the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme.
- Children who are currently on the shielded patient list (SPL) are advised they should not return to school or nursery before the 31 July. If parents or carers are shielding it is advised that their child only attends education or childcare settings if social distancing can be adhered to. If this is not possible, their child should be supported to learn or work at home until 31 July.
- Those on the SPL and living in an area where a local lockdown is in place should follow shielding guidance set out locally for that area during any time of increased local community transmission.
- Government has written to everyone currently on the SPL to inform them that shielding advice continues to 31 July. Government has also written to everyone who has been removed from the SPL by clinicians up to now, to ensure they are aware they no longer need to follow shielding advice. People can only be removed from the SPL by a GP or hospital specialist. Clinicians have been asked to inform individuals when they are removed from the SPL and have been provided with a template letter for doing this.
- From 1 August, provided there are no significant increases in the number of COVID-19 cases, shielding advice will be paused. The Government will re-confirm this and publish the updated guidance when it comes into effect on or around the 1 August.
- The national government support service has also been extended to 31 July. Because people will no longer be advised to shield from that point, the

national government support offer to people considered clinically extremely vulnerable will also then be paused. New registrations for support from the national shielding service will not be accepted after 17 July 2020.

- If people are receiving free food boxes, medicines or personal care through the national shielding service, this support will stop after 31 July (unless local arrangements are put in place in the case of local outbreaks/lockdowns). People will still be able to access other support from their local authority and NHS Volunteer Responders past this point and priority supermarket delivery slots will continue beyond the end of July for those already signed up for support.

- Specialists in paediatric medicine have reviewed the evidence on the level of risk posed to children and young people from COVID-19. This latest evidence indicates that the risk of serious illness for most children and young people is low. Only a small group of children who receive specialist care in hospitals are likely to still be considered clinically extremely vulnerable to coronavirus, and potentially advised to shield again in future. Health services will be in touch with children and their families over the summer, ahead of the new school term, to discuss what the new evidence means for them personally in the longer term. Families, carers and young people do not need to make immediate contact.

- Now that more evidence regarding the COVID-19 risk factors is available, the government has commissioned work to develop and evaluate a clinical risk prediction model to estimate short term risks of catching and experiencing adverse outcomes from COVID-19 in adults.

- While this risk tool is being developed, and even though shielding guidance is being paused from 1 August, the existing SPL should be maintained. Clinicians should continue to identify and record people who may be clinically extremely vulnerable to coronavirus and ensure the individual is made aware of this. This is in case shielding (or other) measures are reintroduced at any point in the future, and it is necessary to quickly identify people who are considered clinically extremely vulnerable.

- An updated template letter for notifying people who have been identified as clinically extremely vulnerable was distributed to practices and trusts on 3 July and is available on the NHS Digital website, along with details of the process for adding and removing people from the SPL. It is important that older versions of the letter referring people to the Government support offer are no longer sent, as registrations for this service will no longer be possible for people newly identified as clinically extremely vulnerable.