**COVID-19 update**

**Information correct as of 5pm 5 May 2020**

**In this edition**

* Updates to the RSS COVID-19 webpage
* GP supporting info for shielding and non-shielding patients (and at risk letter)

**Attachments**

* None

All information provided in the COVID-19 bulletin is hosted online at <https://www.valeofyorkccg.nhs.uk/rss/home/infections-and-microbiology/covid-19/>

**Updates to the RSS COVID-19 webpage**

Safeguarding [GP Briefing on Completing Form AH for Prospective Adoptive Parents, Connected Person Carers and Foster Carers during the COVID-19 Pandemic from the North Yorkshire and York Designated Professionals](https://www.valeofyorkccg.nhs.uk/seecmsfile/?id=3858&inline=1&inline=1)

GP supporting info for shielding and non-shielding patients (and at risk letter) see further detail below

[Information for GPs advising both shielding and non shielding patients on support available during the COVID 19 pandemic](https://www.valeofyorkccg.nhs.uk/seecmsfile/?id=3861)

[Letter for 'at-risk' patients](https://www.valeofyorkccg.nhs.uk/seecmsfile/?id=3860)

**GP supporting info for shielding and non-shielding patients (and at risk letter)**

The latest update of the Shielded Patient List, based on the NHS Digital GP Extraction Service, has identified a small number of patients who will be advised to shield via a centrally generated letter and text message.  Flags will be added to the GP records for these patients along with patients identified by hospital clinicians this week.  The addition of flags and distribution of central letters is expected to be complete by Thursday 7 May.  You may also receive information relating to this from your system supplier.

Any patients you locally identified as clinically extremely vulnerable prior to 28 April 2020 should now be recognised by the Government support website.  Thank you for informing all of these patients, using the standard letter previously provided.  If you have not done so, please ensure that you write to these patients as soon as possible.  Please use the attached updated version of the letter.  This contains the same information but confirms that the Government is currently advising people who are clinically extremely vulnerable to shield until 30 June, subject to ongoing review.  People who you have identified locally and added to the registry will be sent text messages later this week and contacted early next week by the Government support service call centre if they have not yet registered online or by phone.  It is therefore important that you have contacted them to confirm that they have been identified as clinically extremely vulnerable.

We are aware that some people who believe they have registered for support on the website have not received it.  We have fed this back to the Government service and are working with them to resolve issues with the website and call centre. Please advise people to re-register ensuring they have entered the correct NHS number on the website and their name and address as used in their NHS records.

We have received a number of queries about the length of time patients should shield for. Government is currently advising people to shield until at least the 30June (irrespective of when the letter from the NHS was received) and is regularly monitoring this position.  Further information about shielding will be published in due course by Government and individuals currently shielding notified.

As a reminder, the websites below may contain helpful information about these patients / process:

* Highest clinical risk being advised to shield identification methodology – <https://digital.nhs.uk/coronavirus/shielded-patient-list/methodology>
* Shielded patient list guidance for general practice – <https://digital.nhs.uk/coronavirus/shielded-patient-list/guidance-for-general-practice>
* Summary of support offers available to those shielding and other vulnerable groups – slide deck attached
* Government’s shielding guidance – <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19>

Please note: A similar email to this has been sent to hospital clinicians asking them, if they have not already done so, to review their patient lists and identify anyone who should be added to the clinically highest risk registry and advised to shield. We have asked them to speak to any such patients, and to send them a copy of the standard NHS letter, as well as to notify the patient’s GP that they have been added to the list, and to submit a list of additional patients to NHS Digital.