



Department
of Health &
Social Care



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

[Patient Name

Patient address Line 1

Patient address Line 2

Patient address Line 3]

27 July 2020

**SHIELDING GUIDANCE EXTENDED. YOU ARE STRONGLY ADVISED TO
CONTINUE STAYING AT HOME.**

Your NHS number: [NHS NUMBER]

**This letter will soon be available in different formats and languages
on GOV.UK. For audio, braille, large print call RNIB on 0303
1239999.**

Dear [Patient],

IMPORTANT ADVICE ON CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

As the levels of Coronavirus are starting to fall you may be aware that some measures have been relaxed in the Leicester area. However, Coronavirus levels in **Leicester City, Oadby and Wigston** continue to remain high and **therefore shielding guidance in these areas will not be relaxed at this time**. As you have been assessed as being clinically extremely vulnerable, you are strongly advised, to continue to shield by staying at home as much as possible and keeping visits outside to a minimum.

You should have received a letter from the Government dated 22 June updating you on the local guidance for those considered clinically extremely vulnerable in the Leicester area. This letter now replaces the letter from 22 June and can be used as evidence for your employer to show that you cannot work outside your home until at least 17 August, including for Statutory Sick Pay purposes. More detailed guidance for your local area, including a map where local measures apply can be found on leicester.gov.uk/coronavirus.

This means our clinical advice has not changed following the recent review on 23 July and you should continue to follow shielding advice:

- you are strongly advised to stay at home as much as possible and keep visits outside to a minimum;
- if you wish to spend time outdoors this can be with members of your own household or, if you live alone, you may choose to spend time outdoors with one person from another household (ideally the same person each time). You should maintain social distancing and avoiding gatherings of any size; and
- you are advised not to be part of a support bubble with another household.

Will the position be reviewed?

The Government will continue to keep the situation under review on a weekly basis. We will write to you again before the 17 August.

Support to stay at home

If you are currently in receipt of free government food boxes, medicine deliveries or care through the national shielding service, you will continue to receive this support until the end of July. Priority supermarket delivery slots provided by seven supermarkets will continue beyond the end of July for those already signed up for support.

From 1 August, weekly food box and care support will be provided by Leicester City Council to support you to remain at home until 17 August and they will contact you to discuss your needs. Please be aware that your food box may arrive any time during the week. If you are not yet registered for support but are concerned that you will need help, you can contact the council via email at c19support@leicester.gov.uk.

Patients who are considered clinically extremely vulnerable are encouraged in the first instance to see if their medicines can be collected from the pharmacy or dispensing practice and delivered by family, friends, a carer or a volunteer. Where this is not possible, free medicines delivery from your local pharmacy will continue whilst you are being advised to shield. Please contact them to let them know you would like this to continue.

You can also contact the NHS Volunteer Responder scheme for help collecting shopping, medicine or other essential supplies that you need delivered to your home, or for someone to check in with you if you would like a chat. You can call them for free on 0808 1963646.

Receiving a letter like this for the first time?

If you are receiving a letter like this for the first time, it is because you have been identified as someone who is considered clinically extremely vulnerable due to an underlying disease or health condition. This may put you at risk of severe illness if you catch Coronavirus and you have therefore been advised to shield. If you have not previously been advised to shield, you may want to discuss this with your GP and follow the guidance set out in this letter.

Throughout the epidemic we have been clear on the need to balance the risk of the disease to those who are clinically extremely vulnerable with the benefits of gradually returning to normal life. We know that the shielding guidance has been challenging to follow and that it will take time to adjust. We appreciate this is a difficult time for you and thank you for your continued efforts in keeping yourself safe.

Yours sincerely,



MATT HANCOCK
Secretary of State for Health and Social Care



ROBERT JENRICK
Secretary of State for
Housing, Communities and
Local Government