

Covid-19 HIGH RISK PATIENT CLARIFICATION V1

There is a lot of controversy in the press about who is sending shielding letters to patients. This is the current advice as of 13-4-20

Criteria for patients who qualify for the Shielding Advice and letter

- People who have had an organ transplant who remain on long term immune suppression therapy
- People with specific cancers - people:
 - with cancer who are undergoing active chemotherapy or radical radiotherapy for lung cancer
 - with cancers of the blood or bone marrow such as leukaemia, lymphoma or myeloma who are at any stage of treatment
 - having immunotherapy or other continuing antibody treatments for cancer
 - having other targeted cancer treatments which can affect the immune system, such as protein kinase inhibitors or PARP inhibitors
- who have had bone marrow or stem cell transplants in the last 6 months, or who are still taking immunosuppression drugs
- People with severe respiratory conditions including all cystic fibrosis, severe asthma and severe COPD. Severe asthmatics are those who are frequently prescribed high dose steroid tablets.
- People with rare diseases and inborn errors of metabolism that significantly increase the risk of infections (such as SCID, homozygous sickle cell)
- People on immunosuppression therapies sufficient to significantly increase risk of infection
- People who are pregnant with significant congenital heart disease

The Government have identified the patients as above and sent them letters directly. The surgery have been given this list, have checked through it, and are contacting patients directly where necessary.

We are still receiving queries from patients who think that they should have received a shielding letter and so have produced the following guidance for both our patients and staff:

Who has told the patient they need a shielding letter?

1. If a hospital specialist then please **return to the specialist as it is their responsibility to issue a letter** if they have identified you as being at the highest risk of complications of a Covid-19 infection and therefore need to self isolate for 3 months . Please do not ask reception staff in this instance.
2. The patient themselves feel they are at risk and have been on to the Cabinet Office website and registered as high risk and had a message back to contact the GP as they have not previously been sent a letter from NHSE.
 - Please send in your details **by email to southbourne.surgery@nhs.net** . (see below)
3. Another hospital based clinician has indicated that the patient is at high risk – eg a Motor Neurone Disease nurse, Respiratory nurse, A&E doctor, or another source
 - If this is the case the patient should self-declare themselves as high risk on the Cabinet Office website and if the message back is to contact the GP then send in your details by **email the surgery on southbourne.surgery@nhs.net (see below)**

If you do not have access to email we can take calls by telephone during the afternoon (please email by preference)

- Details we will require to enable the clinician to assess your risk factors:
- Name
- Date of birth
- Mobile number where possible for us to text you our response
- Which category you fall into for criteria as above
- If you do not fall into one of the specified categories please give as much concise detail as you can regarding your specific risk factors as high risk

Cabinet Office website for self-registration <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus-extremely-vulnerable>