



MEMBERS BULLETIN

22nd June 2020

Dear All

New shielding advice

Cancer52 is now on an engagement list at DHSC regarding shielding, and as such has received emails today regarding new advice on shielding.

We are sharing this now with our member charities and would ask that the embargo isn't broken as it might result in our removal from the list, which would be unfortunate.

We are hoping that sharing it ahead of the embargo will enable our member charities to be better prepared for likely questions and follow up as DHSC has said below regarding the last announcement at the end of May that *"we heard the feedback from charities, patient groups and social care stakeholders that lifting measures without a lead-in time caused anxiety and confusion."* So this change in guidance has a two week lead time.

A further [communications toolkit](#) and [an embargoed press notice](#) will follow shortly from DHSC but we thought we would give you a heads up on timings now.

Best wishes,

Jane Lyons
CEO
Cancer52

***** The below information is strictly embargoed until 17:00 Monday 22 June 2020 *****

Email from DHSC External Affairs Officer
11am 22nd June 2020

***** The below information is strictly embargoed until 17:00 Monday 22 June 2020 *****

Good morning all,

As promised, I am emailing to brief you on today's announcement on shielding, to be delivered by the Secretary of State at the press conference. The DCMO, Jenny Harries, will be alongside the Secretary of State to provide clinical background.

The Secretary of State will set out a roadmap for the future of shielding. The key points

are:

- Shielding guidance will be relaxed in stages, subject to clinical evidence. The new advice to patients will now be:
 - From **6 July**:
 - “You may, if you wish, meet in a group of up to 6 people outdoors, including people from different households, while maintaining strict social distancing;
 - You no longer need to observe social distancing with other members of your household;
 - In line with the wider guidance for single adult households (either an adult living alone or with dependent children under 18) in the general population, you may from this date, if you wish, also form a ‘support bubble’ with one other household. All those in a support bubble will be able to spend time together inside each other’s homes, including overnight, without needing to socially distance. This is a small advisory change that brings those affected a step nearer others in their communities. However, all the other current shielding advice will remain unchanged at this time. the guidance for the clinically extremely vulnerable will be relaxed to allow shielded individuals to meet up to 5 people from other households outdoors, socially distanced, and to form support bubbles if they live alone or are a lone adult with a dependent under 18.”
 - From **1 August**:
 - “The advice to ‘shield’ will be paused. From this date, the Government is advising you to adopt strict social distancing rather than full shielding measures. Strict social distancing means you may wish to go out to more places and see more people but you should take particular care to minimise contact with others outside your household or support bubble.
 - You can go to work, if you cannot work from home, as long as the business is COVID-safe;
 - Children who are clinically extremely vulnerable can return to their education settings if they are eligible and in line with their peers. Where possible children should practise frequent hand washing and social distancing;
 - You can go outside to buy food, to places of worship and for exercise but you should maintain strict social distancing; and
 - You should remain cautious as you are still at risk of severe illness if you catch Coronavirus, so the advice is to stay at home where possible and, if you do go out, follow strict social distancing.”
- The food and medicine boxes facilitated by the National Shielding Service will stop as of **1 August** as individuals are advised they can visit shops and pharmacies. However, other forms of support – such as priority supermarket delivery slots and the NHS Volunteers Scheme, amongst a range of local volunteer schemes – will continue. If an individual is concerned about support after 1 August, they should contact their local authority.
- The categorisation of ‘clinically extremely vulnerable’ will remain in place and people in this cohort should continue to follow the guidance specific to them, available [here](#). After 1 August, we will continue to maintain the Shielded Patient List. We will monitor the virus continuously over the coming months and if it spreads too much, we may need to advise this group to shield again.
- Shielding guidance has been and continues to be **advisory**.
- Everybody in the ‘clinically extremely vulnerable’ categorisation will be written to from today outlining these steps.

Why we are announcing these changes now

All Government decisions on shielding advice are led by the latest scientific evidence. The

latest evidence shows that the chance of encountering Coronavirus in the community has continued to decline. Four weeks ago, around one person in 500 had the virus. Last week it was even lower with less than one in 1,700 people having the virus. As a result, we believe that the time is now right to relax our advice to those shielding further, but we understand that it might take a while to get back to routine daily life again. Following the announcement at the end of May, allowing shielded individuals to take steps to go outside safely, we heard the feedback from charities, patient groups and social care stakeholders that lifting measures without a lead-in time caused anxiety and confusion. As such, this time we are allowing two weeks before the first guidance changes, during which we are prepared to engage with you as much as possible and use your expertise to ensure the transition for people who are shielding is done with trust in the government's guidance and with clarity. We are aware that trust is a key issue for shielding individuals so, as trusted voices amongst patients and their families, your support for this roadmap would be invaluable. With sustained engagement with the department, we hope you feel confident to share information on this announcement and advocate for the roadmap.

We are endeavouring to make your preparation for today's announcement as easy as possible. As such, this email will shortly be followed by:

- **A communications toolkit**, including more information on the announcement and how you can help, assets for your websites and social media, and a Q&A for your helplines
- **An embargoed press notice.**

As written above, this information is **embargoed till 17:00 today** so please do not put anything out externally until then. If you could send me any prepared comms for my information that would be extremely helpful, and let me know if you have any questions.



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