

National Shielding Programme Information for local authorities about individuals who do not need to shield

Introduction

This note provides information relating to the National Shielding Programme and the approach to individuals who have been informed by their GP or hospital clinician that they do not need to shield.

How are individuals identified as needed shielding?

Shielding is a measure to protect those individuals categorised as clinically extremely vulnerable – individuals with specific medical conditions that put them at higher risk of severe illness should they contract COVID-19. The process to identify people on the 'Shielded Patient List' uses centrally held NHS data as well as identification through GPs and hospital clinicians.

What is the role of GPs / hospital clinicians?

The GPs and hospital clinicians looking after people in these groups have been informed of who is included in the highest clinical risk group. They have reviewed their patient lists and added in anyone else they think should be considered at highest clinical risk and advised to shield. They have also removed people who they deem not to be at the highest clinical risk and so do not need to be advised to shield. GPs and hospital clinicians will continue to add people to, or remove them from, the list as appropriate over time.

How is a patient told they no longer need to shield?

People are only being removed from the Shielded Patient list by their GP or hospital clinician, who should advise the individual of their decision. The Government will additionally send an SMS text (or email / letter if mobile numbers are not held) to those recently removed and soon to be removed from the list who have requested help with essential supplies.

To support future conversations, GPs and hospitals will be provided with a standard letter to inform people they do not need to shield. This will reference that support from the National Shielding Service) will stop and signpost to other sources of help. We will share this with you.

Support from the National Shielding Service

Individuals who are advised they do not need to shield are being informed that their records are being updated to show that they no longer need support from the National Shielding Service. As such, deliveries of essential supplies from the National Shielding Service will be stopped and individuals will no longer be able to access paid for delivery medicines from pharmacies.

This will not affect their eligibility for a supermarket priority delivery slot or any slots already in place. If individuals are struggling to access food or essentials, they can visit www.gov.uk/find-coronavirus-support to get information on the range of support options available. If they need urgent help and have no other support, they may contact their local council.

Impact on daily data shared with LAs

Once a patient is removed from Shielded Patient List, this also means that they will no longer appear on the daily NHS Shielded Patient lists shared with you.

**Shielding Directorate
Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government**

Annex A

Message to individuals advised not to shield:

This is an update from the National Shielding Service. We understand that your GP or hospital clinician has recommended that you no longer need to follow government advice to shield.

If you are receiving food deliveries via the National Shielding Service, these will now be stopped. This will not affect your eligibility for a supermarket priority delivery slot or any slots you already have in place.

If you are struggling to access food or essentials, please visit www.gov.uk/find-coronavirus-support to get information on the range of support options available. If you need urgent help and have no other support, please contact your local council. If you need help getting your medicine delivered please contact NHS Volunteer Responders on 0808 196 3646 (8am to 8pm).