1. **Email from** [shielding@communities.gov.uk](mailto:shielding@communities.gov.uk)  
   **Date:** 22 June 2020 at 18:51:16 BST  
   **Subject:** **Shielding: Future of Shielding**

﻿

Dear Colleagues

The Health Secretary and Deputy Chief Medical Officer set out yesterday, a roadmap for the future of shielding. A link to the press release is available [here](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/plans-to-ease-guidance-for-over-2-million-shielding).

The key points are:

* Shielding guidance will be relaxed in stages, subject to clinical evidence:
  + From **6 July**: 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 clinically extremely vulnerable can stop shielding. The guidance will be updated to allow this cohort to go to the shops and places of worship, while following current social distancing rules.
* 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 indefinitely and people in this cohort should continue to follow the guidance specific to them, available [here](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.gov.uk%2Fgovernment%2Fpublications%2Fguidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19%2Fguidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19&data=02%7C01%7CMark.Singh%40communities.gov.uk%7C2142d43a96c344cff7b508d816b8a400%7Cbf3468109c7d43dea87224a2ef3995a8%7C0%7C0%7C637284329568220990&sdata=4FNERDGrhQ%2F4oiJvHfrqMEaAQzz%2FJlq4Sc%2BouSNemxU%3D&reserved=0). This is because community transmission and the R number will continue to be closely monitored and the government will tighten advice to this cohort as needed.
* 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.

Following Chris Townsend’s briefing for all Chief Executives earlier this afternoon, please find attached the following to support you in your preparations and communications with residents:

* **A communications toolkit** which includes more information on the announcement (for your internal use)
* **Annex A:** a core narrative (for your internal use)
* **Annex B:** an explainer (for use on your website, if you wish)
* **Annex C:** a Q&A (for your internal use, e.g. for your helplines)
* **Annex D:** social media pack (including draft tweets for you to use, if you wish)
* **Patient Letter** which is being sent out to shielded individuals from today.

You will also want to note, in light of this relaxation, we have taken the decision to suspend our ask of councils to feedback data on local shielding outcomes. Accordingly, we will not be issuing guidance on the submission of shielding data from councils to central government as we had planned to do last week. We will continue to work closely with councils and other partners in considering the data needs of a future shielding programme.

As a reminder the Shielding team are offering regional briefing sessions throughout the course of the day tomorrow – do reach out to your regional contact for further information.

This email is copied to all Chief Executives and LRF Chairs in England. Please do share with those in your organisations who may need to see it.

Kind regards

Shielding Directorate

1. **Resources**

**NEW: 24.06.2020**

| **Item** | **Brief Overview** | **Link or Information** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Shielding Communications Toolkit** | * To share with staff to give an overview of what information is available |  |
| **Annex A – Core Narrative** | * Clear summary to share with staff |  |
| **Annex B - Explainers** | * Consider including on your website to explain to shielded patients |  |
| **Annex C – Stakeholder Q&A** | * Useful for staff to refer to when answering patient questions |  |
| **Annex D – Social Media Pack** | * Useful resources to tweet |  |
| * Graphics to update your face book and websites | To follow |
| **Shielding Patient Letter** | * Copy of the letter sent to your patients |  |
| **Shielding Patient information** | * Guidance and updates for GPs at risk patients | <https://www.england.nhs.uk/coronavirus/publication/guidance-and-updates-for-gps-at-risk-patients/> |