



# The Crown Medical Centre

Venture Way, Taunton, TA2 8QY

Tel: 01823 282151

Fax: 01823 250179

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Dear Patient

There are two different categories for patients deemed to be more vulnerable and at risk of severe illness from COVID-19. These are outlined below:-

## **Patients at increased risk of severe illness from COVID-19**

Those who are at increased risk of severe illness from coronavirus (COVID-19) are advised to stringently follow social distancing measures. This includes anyone over 70, anyone under 70 who would qualify for a flu jab on health grounds, and pregnant women. Full guidance can be found on the GOV.UK website.

## **Shielded patients: highest at risk of severe illness from COVID-19**

Those at the highest risk of severe illness from COVID-19 are advised to shield themselves and stay at home for twelve weeks.

**Most** patients in the highest clinical risk group, who have been advised to shield, have been identified and contacted either centrally by the NHS or by hospital clinicians. We expect more people to be identified as NHS England is going to validate the centrally-held list against general practice data. People identified through this process will be sent a letter in the post and will also be flagged in our GP system. Unfortunately this process has been delayed because the national searches to get the data from the GP surgery system are not ready yet.

A number of patients have self-identified as being in the highest clinical risk group on the government website. Soon we will be sent details of these patients who have self-identified in this way and we will need to review this list and consider if they should be included in the highest clinical risk group. We will then need to send a letter to any who the GPs consider to be at highest clinical risk and add a flag to their record. We may also have to contact the people who self-referred and who the GPs consider to not be in the highest clinical risk group to confirm that they do not need to shield.

Hospital clinicians are reviewing people access specialities such as rheumatology, dermatology, gastroenterology, renal, respiratory, neurology, obstetrics, maternity and patients with severe specific disease who cannot be identified through the central dataset. These patients will be flagged on the GP system.

If you feel that you are in the highest risk group and you have not received a letter then please people the guidance on shielding available on the Government website until we are in a position to confirm whether you meet the criteria or not.

## **Government website details:**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19>

With thanks

Crown Medical Centre

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Partners: Dr L Pendered, Dr A Lambert, Dr T Langston & Dr E Hayes  
Salaried GP's: Dr K Foot, Dr R Moss, Dr L Huntley & Dr H Jenkins  
Managing Partner: Mrs C Gregory