

Appendix 2

The Shielding Group and Children and Young People

The “shielding group” are people who have been identified as Clinically Extremely Vulnerable to Covid-19 and are given additional advice and guidance on preventing infection.

Currently the general advice to this group of people is that they can return to a more normal way of life, including returning to work or school, if they can maintain good physical distance and good hand and respiratory hygiene.

However, due to the nature of their ongoing medical treatment there are some people who are individually currently under active advice to shield at home.

Category	Information	Advice
Children under <u>active</u> shielding advice from GP specialist <i>Usually if a child in significantly immune-suppressed due to ongoing chemotherapy or organ transplant.</i>	Local Authority not notified about these cases. Dealt with on individual basis.	Follow medical advice if advised to shield at home. Do not follow general guidance. Home education support advised. Doctor’s note required.
Children on the national shielding list <i>Children with a range of long term conditions.</i>	Local authority is sent updated lists on a daily and weekly basis. Head teachers have been sent secure copies of the list for each school to assist with risk assessments. Due to the dynamic nature of the lists, school are advised to ask all parents/carers to notify them if their child is added to or removed from the list. Only a medical opinion can add or remove a child to the list.	Current national advice is that shielding at home is PAUSED. Children advised they can safely return to Covid-safe school environment. Schools advised to discuss any concerns with children/ parents and carers about them safely returning to school environment and agree any additional measures they may wish to put in place – such as supervised hand washing etc. If children on the list are exposed to the virus through someone they have had contact with testing positive, they are advised to return home to isolate and to order a home test kit as soon as possible.

	<p>If you need to check the status of an individual child on the list you can do this by contacting DCS Alert.</p>	<p>If parents/carers/child does not wish to return to school because of the risk posed, the Local Authority has the discretion not to levy fines.</p> <p>The Local Authority encourages schools to reach a mutual agreement with children and their parents on the best course of action – taking into consideration their child’s physical, mental and social wellbeing.</p>
<p>Children expected to be stepped off the national shielding list</p> <p><i>Children with a long term condition purely managed by primary care are not expected to remain on the national shielding list following updated guidance from the Royal College of Paediatricians and more information about how Covid-19 impacts on children.</i></p>	<p>Updated assessments of all under 18s on the shielding list are underway but this is taking some time.</p> <p>The LA will provide update lists as they become available.</p> <p>If you need to check the status of an individual child on the list you can do this by contacting DCS Alert.</p>	<p>Children who were on the list but who have been informed by a medical practitioner that they are no longer classed as clinically extremely vulnerable should follow the general guidelines.</p>
<p>Children living in a household with another member of the household under active shielding advice.</p> <p><i>For example if a parent/ sibling is undergoing chemotherapy or has undergone a recent transplant.</i></p>	<p>Local Authority not notified about these cases.</p> <p>Dealt with on individual basis.</p>	<p>There is no specific advice for whole household shielding – this must be dealt with on a case by case basis.</p> <p>Doctors note required. N.b. Doctors can issue letters if they think a child in school would pose a significant health risk to another member of the household. This is not a fit note, but a doctor’s letter.</p> <p>Discretionary home education support advised.</p>

<p>Children living in a household with another member of the household on the shielding list.</p>	<p>The Local Authority cannot provide a list of children who live in households where another member of the household is on the shielding list.</p> <p>Dealt with on individual basis.</p>	<p>At present, members of households with people on the shielding list are advised to take extra precautions to limit physical contact with others, maintain distance and regular handwashing. These children are strongly encouraged to attend school.</p> <p>Schools advised to discuss any concerns with children/ parents and carers and to agree any additional measures such as supervised hand washing.</p>
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