

10 June 2020

Dear colleagues,

## SHIELDING

We shared correspondence earlier in the week confirming that patients who are shielding should continue this until 31 July.

Over the past few weeks, both GP practices and hospital colleagues in discussion with patients, have identified a number of patients who did *not* need to be on the shielding list for a variety of reasons (e.g. change in condition or treatment), and provided their CHI numbers to the Board. Those patients did not at the time receive a formal letter from Scottish Government stating they were no longer on the list, but a letter is now being sent to those patients confirming this. The patients concerned are all those who have been identified by GPs and consultants as not requiring to shield and therefore this should simply be confirming information they are already aware of. However, we are sharing a copy of the letter in case you get any queries or concerns directly.

Shielding is continuing until 31 July, pending further guidance on what happens beyond that. While no additional local or national searches are being carried out to identify patients, please continue to add patients for shielding where you become aware that someone newly comes into that category, for example as a result of a newly diagnosed condition or commencement of treatment. Hospital colleagues will continue to do likewise. Please continue to forward any new CHI numbers to [COVIDshielding@ggc.scot.nhs.uk](mailto:COVIDshielding@ggc.scot.nhs.uk) and they will be added to the shielding list. Notifications should identify which shielding group the individual is in. If no shielding group is provided, additions will be noted as group 7. You can also continue to remove patients who no longer require to shield by submitting their CHI number in the same way, noting that these are for removal.

The full up-to-date list of categories for shielding is available at <https://www.hps.scot.nhs.uk/web-resources-container/covid-19-search-criteria-for-highest-risk-patients-for-shielding/>

Thank you again for your ongoing support for shielding patients. We will be in touch again as soon as there is further guidance on the next steps for Shielding.

Yours faithfully,

John

**John O'Dowd**

Clinical Director

On behalf of the NHSGGC COVID Shielding Group