

Local Lockdowns and Shielded Patients List

Email from DHSC 27.7.20

I am emailing to update you on local measures in response to an increase of Coronavirus cases in Leicester, Luton and Blackburn with Darwen and how those on the Shielded Patients List (SPL) will be contacted.

Everyone on the SPL living in one of these areas will receive **a text** either today or tomorrow **and a letter** in the coming days to inform them that advanced measures are being taken in their local area, what the instructions are for them, and where they can find additional information and support. I will briefly outline the measures below.

Leicester

The advice for the Leicester area differs by location.

Leicester City, Oadby and Wigston

Levels of Coronavirus in Leicester City, Oadby and Wigston continue to remain high. If you live in this area and are on the SPL, you should not follow the national pausing of shielding that will take place on 1 August. Instead, the advice is:

- you are strongly advised to stay at home as much as possible and keep visits outside to a minimum
- if you wish to spend time outdoors, this can be with members of your own household or, if you live alone, you may choose to spend time outdoors with one person from another household (ideally the same person each time)
- you should maintain social distancing and avoiding gatherings of any size
- you are advised not to be part of a support bubble with another household.

As outlined above, everyone on the SPL living in the Leicester area will receive a text (today) and a letter. An updated letter from the government dated 27 July will continue to act as evidence for your employer to show that you cannot work outside your home until 17 August, including for statutory sick pay purposes. You will receive a further letter before 17 August providing the evidence for your employer from this date if advice to shield remains in place.

Other areas including Blaby and Charnwood

The Government will relax shielding advice in the Blaby and Charnwood area in two stages on 3 August and 17 August. This is because the number of people with the virus in Blaby and Charnwood area has fallen. You are advised not to travel into Leicester City, Oadby and Wigston as you are more likely to come into contact with the virus in those areas.

This means, from **3 August**:

- you may, if you wish, meet in a group of up to 6 people outdoors, including people from different households, while maintaining strict social distancing;
- you no longer need to observe social distancing with other members of your household;
- If you are a single adult household (either an adult living alone or with dependent children under 18), you may from this date, if you wish, also form a 'support bubble' with one other household. All those in a support bubble will be able to spend time

together inside each other's homes, including overnight, without needing to socially distance.

From **17 August** the advice to 'shield' in your area will be paused and you can now follow the national guidance.

As outlined above, everyone on the SPL living in the Leicester area will receive a text (today) and a letter. An updated letter from the government dated 27 July will continue to act as evidence for your employer to show that you cannot work outside your home until 17 August, including for statutory sick pay purposes.

Luton

If you live in the Luton area and you are on the SPL, you should not follow the national pausing of shielding that will take place on 1 August. Instead, the advice to you will be:

- you may, if you wish, meet in a group of up to 6 people outdoors, including people from different households, while maintaining strict social distancing;
- you no longer need to observe social distancing with other members of your household;
- If you are a single adult household (either an adult living alone or with dependent children under 18), you may from this date, if you wish, also form a 'support bubble' with one other household. All those in a support bubble will be able to spend time together inside each other's homes, including overnight, without needing to socially distance.

As outlined above, everyone on the SPL living in the Luton area will receive a text (tomorrow) and a letter. This letter (dated 28 July) will continue to act as evidence for your employer to show that you cannot work outside your home until 17 August, including for statutory sick pay purposes. You will receive a further letter before 17 August providing the evidence for your employer from this date if advice to shield remains in place.

Blackburn with Darwen

If you live in the Blackburn with Darwen area and you are on the SPL, you should not follow the national pausing of shielding that will take place on 1 August. Instead, the advice to you will be:

- you may, if you wish, meet in a group of up to 6 people outdoors, including people from different households, while maintaining strict social distancing;
- you no longer need to observe social distancing with other members of your household;
- If you are a single adult household (either an adult living alone or with dependent children under 18), you may from this date, if you wish, also form a 'support bubble' with one other household. All those in a support bubble will be able to spend time together inside each other's homes, including overnight, without needing to socially distance.

As outlined above, everyone on the SPL living in the Blackburn with Darwen area will receive a text (tomorrow) and a letter. This letter (dated 28 July) will continue to act as evidence for your employer to show that you cannot work outside your home until 17 August, including for statutory sick pay purposes. You will receive a further letter before 17 August providing the evidence for your employer from this date if advice to shield remains in place.