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COVID-19: people with chronic myeloid leukaemia on Outreach monitoring

Everyone in the UK is following social distancing measures but there are additional shielding measures for people at very high risk of severe illness from coronavirus (COVID-19), including "people with cancers of the blood or bone marrow such as leukaemia who are at any stage of treatment". CML is a type of leukaemia, and so officially included in the group of blood cancers. The guidance can be found at:

<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>

However expert opinion from the UK National Cancer Research Institute CML Subgroup (updated 21st March 2020, available at https://b-s-h.org.uk/media/18154/covid-19-and-cml-recommendations-ncri-sub-group-21_3_20.pdf) highlights that:

- Patients with CML do not appear at a higher risk of getting COVID-19 than the general population
- Having a diagnosis of CML or being treated with TKI therapy does not convincingly cause clinically significant immune suppression.

We have previously sent information to your GP surgery about the COVID risk status associated with your blood disorder. For other questions about your COVID-19 risk status please contact your GP. For specific questions regarding CML and treatment, please contact your CNS or your CML specialist.

If you are continuing to work or have any face-to-face appointments, please let your employer or service provider know about your risk category as they may need to make special arrangements. Please contact us if an employer or service provider needs a letter to confirm that you have a disorder that requires you to be very strict with social distancing.

If you receive (or have already received) a pack, please contact your GP practice to ensure that they can collect the blood samples safely. If you would prefer to avoid having the blood samples taken at the moment, please contact us to check if you need to get the samples taken.

If you have an email address, please email "leedsth-tr.HMDSOutreach@nhs.net" so that we can contact you rapidly if the situation changes. You can also call on 0113 206 7851 and ask to speak to Vicky or Andy but please be aware that call volumes are high at the moment.

For questions about COVID-19 symptoms please go to <https://111.nhs.uk> or call 111. For the latest NHS information please go to <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Updated: 11-Jun-2020.