



HMDS, Level 3, Bexley Wing
St. James's University Hospital
Leeds, LS9 7TF
Tel. 0113 2067851
Fax. 0113 2067883

COVID-19: people with chronic lymphocytic leukaemia or lymphoma on Outreach monitoring

The government has developed guidance for shielding measures to protect 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". This includes people with B-lymphoproliferative disorders even if they are on active monitoring and do not need treatment. The guidance on shielding can be found online 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>

We have previously sent information to your GP surgery about the COVID-19 risk status associated with your blood disorder. For other questions about your COVID-19 risk status please contact your GP. Please contact us if an employer or service provider needs a letter to confirm that you have a disorder that requires you to shield.

Emerging data suggests that people with leukaemia or lymphoma who have a stable disorder with no evidence of immune suppression are still vulnerable but may not be extremely vulnerable to COVID-19 illness. If you cannot follow shielding guidance in full (for example a need to return to work) and you have normal immunoglobulin levels (IgM more than 0.25 g/L **and** IgG more than 6.0 g/L **and** IgA more than 0.8 g/L on your most recent report) it may be appropriate to follow the guidance for the vulnerable group which can be found online at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/staying-alert-and-safe-social-distancing/staying-alert-and-safe-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. In most cases it is not urgent to have the blood samples collected immediately. 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/>

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