



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

## **Outreach monitoring for people with B-lymphoproliferative disorders during the coronavirus pandemic**

Our laboratories are operating at full capacity for monitoring your disorder during the pandemic. If you receive (or have already received) a pack for monitoring, please contact your GP practice to see if they can collect the blood samples safely. If this is not possible please contact us to arrange an alternative place where you can get your blood samples taken. In most cases it is not urgent to have the blood samples collected immediately but it is important that your disorder is monitored regularly. If you would prefer to avoid having the blood samples taken at the moment, please contact us to check if it is clinically important to have your blood samples collected without delay.

The government has developed 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 for people who are clinically extremely vulnerable 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>

People with B-lymphoproliferative disorders should have a COVID-19 vaccine when it is offered unless they have had a severe allergic reaction to any of the vaccine components before. We have previously sent information to your GP surgery about the COVID-19 risk status associated with your blood disorder. For other questions about COVID-19 vaccination or overall 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 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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