



Chris Heaton-Harris
Member of Parliament for Daventry
House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA
Tel: 020 7219 7048

April 2020

Dear Constituent,

Thank you for contacting me about Motor Neurone Disease (MND) and Coronavirus.

In addition to the 1.5 million people identified in England with conditions already centrally identified, GPs are currently identifying other patients who are clinically extremely vulnerable.

These patients will be contacted directly and will be advised to shield. I understand this is an anxious time and those considered extremely vulnerable will understandably have questions and concerns. Plans are being readied to make sure you can rely on a wide range of help and support. If you have received a letter from your GP or NHS England advising you to shield, you should be staying at home at all times and avoiding any face-to-face contact for a period of at least 12 weeks from the day you received your letter.

This means strictly avoiding contact with someone who is displaying symptoms of coronavirus; not leaving your house, not attending any gatherings and not going out to do any shopping. In dealing with this unprecedented challenge, what everyone must recognise is that our NHS, like any health service around the world, only has a limited number of doctors, nurses and specialist equipment. This means it can only deal with so many sick people at once.

Full guidance is available online from Public Health England. This includes the full list of conditions considered to be in the extremely vulnerable category and advice for family members, friends and carers. A link to the guidance can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19>

The shielded patient list is developed by NHS Digital at the direction of the Chief Medical Officer for England. Please see the following link:

<https://digital.nhs.uk/coronavirus/shielded-patient-list/process#dissemination>



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If someone with MND is identified by the GP to be clinically extremely vulnerable they will be added to the list and will be able to access the cross-Government support package. You can register yourself, or you can register on behalf of someone else. Please use the following link to do so:

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus-extremely-vulnerable>

If you believe that you should be included in the extremely vulnerable group, you are advised to contact your GP.

I do hope that this provides some reassurance and I am happy to raise awareness of this process to ensure that people are able to access the support that they need.

Thank you again for taking time to contact me.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Chris'.

CHRIS HEATON-HARRIS MP
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR DAVENTRY