

Update Statement from the National leads of the children and adult PCD centres in England – 16th November 2020

Advice on what PCD patients in England should do regarding ‘shielding’

CONTEXT:

We continue to review the available data on COVID-19 and we remain fortunate that in children (in the general worldwide population) COVID-19 typically only leads to mild symptoms.

As you may well be aware, a worldwide survey is running to understand the effect of COVID-19 on people with PCD. You can sign up for the survey by following this link and we would all encourage you to do so (follow link: www.covid19pcd.ispm.ch).

To date (as of 16/11/2020), 571 people with PCD have completed this survey globally. 51 people have had symptoms potentially consistent with COVID-19, and 247 have had COVID-19 tests but only 8 have had a positive result. Of these, only 1 person has required hospital admission, this was for 9 days and they did not need to go to intensive care.

ADVICE FOR CHILDREN:

Nationally, the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (RCPCH) has advised that most children with PCD do not need to shield. For reference, this is also the advice that is being given to children with cystic fibrosis (CF).

We support this position and, as such, advise that *most* children with PCD do not need to shield.

However, there are a small number of children who clinicians remain more concerned about (either due to the severity of their lung disease or due to their other medical issues). These children will need to shield.

If you or your child falls into this category, your PCD centre will have been in contact with you already about this. If you have not heard from us, but are concerned that you might fall into this category, then please contact your PCD team.

It remains very important for children and their families to strictly follow Public Health England (PHE) advice on hygiene and social distancing. (Hands, Face & Space) Link: <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus> .

Please contact your PCD teams if you would like to discuss any concerns you have further.

ADVICE FOR ADULTS:

We continue to consider all adults with PCD as ‘clinically extremely vulnerable’ and therefore advise they should shield in line with Public Health England advice ([follow this LINK](#)).

As per PHE advice, these new shielding measures will apply nationally for 4 weeks up to 2nd December. At the end of this period, PHE will look to return to a regional approach and they will issue further guidance at the time (follow link above).

If you feel that you do not need to shield or if you have any questions about this please contact your PCD or respiratory teams.

ONGOING MONITORING:

As we have throughout the pandemic, we will continue to monitor this situation across the English PCD centres and worldwide, through the PCD COVID-19 survey. If we see increases in severe COVID cases in PCD patients then we might need to advise shielding for all our patients. We will therefore continue to update our advice appropriately.

If you have questions about this or any other aspect of the management of you or your child’s PCD please contact your PCD centre. You can also get in touch with the PCD Family Support Group on social media (Twitter, Instagram and Facebook) or via their [website](#) for further information and advice.

We wish you all the best over this winter

The National PCD Leads