

## **Covid vaccination for household members of adults with severe immunosuppression - information for patients of 19 Beaumont Street Surgery**

The JCVI has recently advised that adult household contacts of adults (over 16 years of age) with severe immunosuppression should be offered COVID-19 vaccination. This is in response to regular monitoring of data on vaccine effectiveness and impact, which indicates lower protection in vaccinated adults who are immunosuppressed. Those with severe immunosuppression are therefore more likely to suffer poor outcomes following infection and are less likely to benefit from the vaccines offered. The JCVI's recommendation to vaccinate adult household contacts aims therefore to reduce the risk of infection in the immunosuppressed by vaccinating those most likely to transmit to them.

For the purposes of determining eligibility for covid vaccine in this context the JCVI definition of **severely immunosuppressed** is as follows:

- Patients undergoing chemotherapy leading to immunosuppression, patients undergoing radical radiotherapy, solid organ transplant recipients, bone marrow or stem cell transplant recipients, HIV infection at all stages, multiple myeloma or genetic disorders affecting the immune system (e.g. IRAK-4, NEMO, complement disorder, SCID).
- Individuals who are receiving immunosuppressive or immunomodulating biological therapy including, but not limited to, anti-TNF, alemtuzumab, ofatumumab, rituximab, patients receiving protein kinase inhibitors or PARP inhibitors, and individuals treated with steroid sparing agents such as cyclophosphamide and mycophenolate mofetil.
- Individuals treated with or likely to be treated with systemic steroids for more than a month at a dose equivalent to prednisolone at 20mg or more per day for adults.
- Anyone with a history of haematological malignancy, including leukaemia, lymphoma, and myeloma and those with systemic lupus erythematosus and rheumatoid arthritis, and psoriasis who may require long term immunosuppressive treatments.

**Household contact** is defined as 'individuals who expect to share living accommodation on most days...and therefore, for whom continuing close contact is unavoidable'. Members of 'bubbles' that do not live with an immunosuppressed person for the majority of the week (frequent visitors and other non-carers who might visit the house often but not for the majority of the week, including overnight stays) are excluded from the definition. University halls of residence are also excluded.

If you are an immunosuppressed person you will soon receive a letter from us which your household contacts can use, together with their own [valid proof of address](#), to provide evidence of eligibility for vaccination. If your household contacts are registered with us as their GP, at the same address as you, they will not need to provide any further documentation.

Important additional points:

- This guidance does not apply to the households of children who are immunosuppressed. Neither does it apply to children who live in the household of an immunosuppressed adult
- The recommendation for household vaccination does not apply to everyone on the shielding register – only to those who are shielding due to immunosuppression.

If after reading this information you think you or your adult household members need to arrange a vaccine, please contact us on [practicemanager.nbs@nhs.net](mailto:practicemanager.nbs@nhs.net) or phone 01865 240501. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact us.

Dr Jayne Haynes, GP. 5<sup>th</sup> April 2021

