

T: 0300 244 4000
E: scottish.ministers@gov.scot

Lewis Macdonald MSP
Convener
Health & Sport Committee

By Email.

22 February 2021

Dear Lewis,

ADDITION TO THE SHIELDING LIST: PATIENTS WITH LIVER CIRRHOSIS (CHILD-PUGH CLASS B AND C)

As you will be aware, at the outset of the pandemic, the four Chief Medical Officers (CMOs) published a list of six groups where people would be considered to be at the highest clinical risk from COVID-19.

Although shielding was paused on 31 July 2020, the Shielding List is maintained so that the people at the highest clinical risk from COVID-19 can continue to receive targeted advice as the epidemiology changes.

The UK Clinical Review Panel for Shielding Patients considered the strength of new evidence from the British Liver Trust and researchers at Oxford University <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0168827820336679> and recommended that patients with liver cirrhosis (Child-Pugh class B and C) should be added to the highest risk group and included on the Shielding List.

Letters will be immediately issued to those people affected and we will update guidance for clinicians.

I will of course, ensure that the Committee is provided with updates in relation to shielding as we continue to respond to the coronavirus pandemic.

Kind regards,

JEANE FREEMAN

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St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG
www.gov.scot