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**EXTREMELY VULNERABLE PATIENTS**

We have been contacted by numerous patients since the government issued their guidance1 on those patients who are extremely vulnerable. The patients who have been written to by NHS England have one of the following conditions that make them extremely vulnerable:

1. Solid organ transplant recipients.
2. People with specific cancers:
	* people with cancer who are undergoing active chemotherapy or radical radiotherapy for lung cancer
	* people with cancers of the blood or bone marrow such as leukaemia, lymphoma or myeloma who are at any stage of treatment
	* people having immunotherapy or other continuing antibody treatments for cancer
	* people having other targeted cancer treatments which can affect the immune system, such as protein kinase inhibitors or PARP inhibitors
	* people who have had bone marrow or stem cell transplants in the last 6 months, or who are still taking immunosuppression drugs
3. People with severe respiratory conditions including all cystic fibrosis, severe asthma and severe COPD.
4. People with rare diseases and inborn errors of metabolism that significantly increase the risk of infections (such as SCID, homozygous sickle cell).
5. People on immunosuppression therapies sufficient to significantly increase risk of infection.
6. Women who are pregnant with significant heart disease, congenital or acquired.

The patient list that we have received has been put together by NHS England not the practice. If you are not on this list it is unlikely that you fall into one of the categories defined above. If however you feel you do fall into one of these extremely vulnerable groups please let the practice know via the practice e-consult service (<https://wantagechurchstreet.webgp.com/>) and click on **“I want administrative help**”. One of the clinicians will then review your e-consult with your medical notes to make sure you shouldn’t be taking any extra precautions. If you cannot use e-consult then ring the practice to ask whether a clinician can review your notes.

A lot of patients with chronic medical problems will not fall into the above list but still should follow the government advice on social distancing2.

Dr E J Partners