



Department
of Health &
Social Care

*From Nadine Dorries MP
Minister of State for Patient Safety,
Suicide Prevention and Mental Health*

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Elliot Colburn MP

By email to: elliott.colburn.mp@parliament.uk

26 August 2020

Dear Elliot,

Thank you for your correspondence of 10 June to Matt Hancock on behalf of a number of your constituents about the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). I apologise for the delay in replying.

I understand your constituents' concerns.

People over 70 with no health conditions were classed as being at moderate risk of developing complications from COVID-19 infection. More information can be found at digital.nhs.uk/coronavirus/shielded-patient-list.

Some people, including those aged 70 and over with no underlying health conditions, are still being advised to continue to take particular care to minimise contact with other people outside their household as restrictions are eased. More information on what can and cannot be done can be found at www.gov.uk by searching for 'what you can and can't do'.

The Government has published updated guidance for people who are shielding taking into account that COVID-19 disease levels are substantially lower now than when shielding was first introduced.

The guidance states that people who are shielding should continue to take precautions but they do not need to shield at the moment, as the rates of transmission of COVID-19 in the community have fallen significantly. It can be found at www.gov.uk by searching for 'shielding'.

I hope this reply is helpful.

Kind regards,

NADINE DORRIES