

Appendix 2: Shielding

Learners / Staff who are clinically extremely vulnerable

Rates of community transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19) are now reduced to levels below those seen when shielding was introduced. Shielding measures will therefore be paused from 1st August 2020, with the exception of areas where local lockdown means that shielding will continue. Therefore, we advise that those who are clinically extremely vulnerable can return to schools in September 2020 provided their school has implemented the system of controls outlined by the Government, in line with the school's own workplace risk assessment. In all respects, the clinically extremely vulnerable should now follow the same guidance as the clinically vulnerable population, taking particular care to practise frequent, thorough hand washing, and cleaning of frequently touched areas in their home and/or workspace.

Learners / Staff who are clinically vulnerable

Clinically vulnerable learners and staff can return to school in September. While in school they should follow the sector-specific measures outlined by the Government to minimise the risks of transmission.

This includes:

- taking particular care to observe good hand and respiratory hygiene,
- minimising contact
- maintaining social distancing in line with the provisions set out within this risk assessment, ideally, adults should maintain 2 metre distance from others, and where this is not possible avoid close face to face contact and minimise time spent within 1 metre of others.

While the risk of transmission between young children and adults is likely to be low, adults should continue to take care to socially distance from other adults including older children/adolescents.

People who live with those who are clinically extremely vulnerable or clinically vulnerable can attend the workplace.

Staff who are pregnant

Pregnant women are in the 'clinically vulnerable' category, and are generally advised to follow the above advice, which applies to all staff in schools. Employers should conduct a risk assessment for pregnant women in line with the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 (MHSW).

The Royal College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology (RCOG) has published [occupational health advice for employers and pregnant women](#). This document includes advice for women from 28 weeks gestation or with underlying health conditions who may be at greater risk. We advise employers and pregnant women to follow this advice and to continue to monitor for future updates to it.

The above will apply, and risk assessments undertaken for all those pregnant within the organisation, including learners and volunteers.

Staff who may otherwise be at increased risk from coronavirus (COVID-19)

Some people with particular characteristics may be at comparatively increased risk from coronavirus (COVID-19), as set out in the [COVID-19: review of disparities in risks and outcomes report](#), which looked at different factors including age and sex, where people live, deprivation, ethnicity, people's occupation and care home residence. These learners / staff can return to school in September as long as the system of controls are in place. The reasons for the disparities are complex and there is ongoing research to understand and translate these findings for individuals in the future.

People who live with those who have comparatively increased risk from coronavirus (COVID-19) can attend the workplace.

All learners, staff and volunteers who fit in the above categories will have an individual risk assessment in place in discussion with their tutor / Line Manager.