**<<Practice headed paper>>**

Dear Patient

You may have recently received a letter from the Government advising you that you are now on the high risk (clinically extremely vulnerable – CEV) list. This may have caused you some confusion or anxiety as you were not previously advised of this.

A risk assessment tool has been developed by the University of Oxford called [QCovid](https://qcovid.org/), which looks at a number of health factors and ranks them according to our current understanding of what would put an individual with Covid infection at a higher risk of serious illness.

The Chief Medical Officer has determined that a person should be coded as CEV on the basis of the QCovid calculation if their risk reaches a prescribed threshold, at which point their GP record will be automatically updated to include that they are on the CEV list. This letter is to explain that you have been included on the CEV list as a consequence of this process.

A list of the conditions included can be found [here](https://digital.nhs.uk/coronavirus/risk-assessment/population).

Please be aware that the calculation utilises data held on your records and extracted from GP and hospital systems. If you do not think that you should be on this list please use the [QCovid Calculator](https://qcovid.org/Home/AcademicLicence?licencedUrl=%2FCalculation) to calculate your individual risk. After doing this, if you still do not believe you should be on the list please contact the practice.

Two specific conditions have been acknowledged to result QCovid calculator inappropriately assessing people as high risk:

1. **Gestational diabetes**, which is diabetes that develops during and resolves following the pregnancy. If a woman had gestational diabetes but the diabetes has resolved and they have no additional risk factors, they do not need to be on the CEV list. Women in this category may have received a letter advising them to shield as the calculator will have extracted the gestational diabetes code and included them as diabetic. The RCGP has produced guidance on assessing patients with a history of gestation diabetes which can be found [here](https://elearning.rcgp.org.uk/pluginfile.php/164752/mod_resource/content/2/Shielding%20flowchart.pdf).
2. **Learning disability**, regardless of the severity of the learning disability the calculator will include anyone diagnosed with any degree of learning disability (LD) as needing to be on the CEV list. Current advice is that only patients with profound and multiple LD (PMLD) should be on the CEV list. A PMLD is when a person has a severe LD and other disabilities that significantly affect their ability to communicate and be independent. These people can have complex health and social care needs and they need carers to help them with most areas of everyday life. People with less severe LD do not need to be on the CEV list or shield.

Hopefully this information has resolved any concerns you had in receiving the Government letter advising you to shield but if you still have concerns please contact the practice.

Yours sincerely

On behalf of <<practice details>>