

## **Renal dialysis patients advised to shield**

The Chief Medical Officer has now confirmed that renal dialysis patients should be advised to shield. Where they have not already done so, Renal units will get in touch with patients, send them a letter and add them to the Shielded Patient List via the regular trust submissions to NHS Digital. GPs are asked to note this update, but no further action is required at this point.

Following the latest GP Extraction Services (GPES) last week, a small group of new patients have been identified by the national algorithm. As with others who have been identified nationally, these patients will be sent letters and text messages this week and a flag will be added to their GP records soon. Please contact these patients as you have those previously identified.

On an ongoing basis, there will be a small number of patients who need to be added to the list as they become sick. Those who have time-bound conditions (e.g. patients receiving chemotherapy) may need to be removed from the list. Clinical decisions should continue to be taken based on the criteria set by the Chief Medical Officer and following a conversation with the patient. There should be no automated processes to complement or supplement individual clinical identification other than that used by NHS Digital.

Support is available from local authorities, NHS Volunteer Responders and charities for anyone who needs it, whether they are on the Shielded Patient List or not.