

Understanding the Impact of Shielding Restrictions in Group Living Environments

Please complete this survey if you work with individuals who reside in a group living situation. This includes nursing homes, residential care homes and supported accommodation units. Your experience and ideas are very important to us.

Dear Stakeholder

The health, social and economic impact of COVID-19 (coronavirus) cannot be understated. Our lives have had to change causing significant impact to individuals and their families who have been advised to 'shield' on account of their condition/s.

The residents you work with received a letter from a doctor or hospital clinician to advise that they are at higher risk of becoming seriously ill from COVID-19; as such they need to be 'shielded'. Alternatively, the residents you work with may have been impacted by shielding restrictions applied to a 'group living' environment. In giving this advice or applying restrictions, the priority has been to protect those most likely to be acutely affected by coronavirus and their families, in turn helping to protect the National Health Service (NHS). By applying this to everyone, this has ensured equity for all affected.

The Department of Health recognises that from your direct experience of working with residents in a group living situation, you have a unique insight into the impact of shielding and the measures required to support the transition from shielding to public engagement. As such, we kindly call upon your support with our consultation on this subject. The evidence and insights gathered will assess the level of impact that shielding has had and will inform the Department of Health on the key issues for consideration in planning the further easing of restrictions. The survey covers:

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- How the residents you work with have been affected by shielding;
- What are the most important things for the residents you work with;
- What measures of support are required if the residents you work with are advised to continue to shield in some way;
- What information is needed to support the residents you work with to safely ease the restrictions on shielding.

The study will be conducted through a self-completed survey. The report will outline key themes for consideration to assist the Department of Health.

It is estimated that the consultation questionnaire will take approximately 15 minutes to complete. Please return your questionnaire to **Freepost, Patient and Client Council** or **email** it to info.pcc@pcc-ni.net. Alternatively, you can:

- Complete the survey online at <https://patientclientcouncil.hscni.net/get-involved/shielding-during-covid-19/>;
- Complete the survey over the phone by calling our Freephone number on 0800 917 0222; or
- Participate in a facilitated online group session - please contact Laura Bonnes on 07881636320 or at laura.bonnes@pcc-ni.net

We thank you in advance for your time and responses

Please keep in mind when completing the survey

‘**Shielding**’ is the word used to describe how to protect those at highest risk of severe illness if they catch coronavirus/COVID-19. You can shield yourself and shield others by minimising all interaction between yourself and those who are most at risk.

Some question numbers are skipped because we are asking several different groups to complete the survey and this specific set of questions has been tailored to you.

Tell us about the residents you work with

Q52. What age groups apply to the residents in your place of work?
Please select all that apply

- | | | | |
|----------------|-----------------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| 0-17 yrs..... | <input type="radio"/> | 55-64 yrs..... | <input type="radio"/> |
| 18-24 yrs..... | <input type="radio"/> | 65-79 yrs..... | <input type="radio"/> |
| 25-34 yrs..... | <input type="radio"/> | 80-84 yrs..... | <input type="radio"/> |
| 35-44 yrs..... | <input type="radio"/> | 85-90 yrs..... | <input type="radio"/> |
| 45-54 yrs..... | <input type="radio"/> | 90+ yrs..... | <input type="radio"/> |

Q53. Does the nursing/residential home or supported accommodation unit where you work support people with particular needs?

- Yes.....
- No.....

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Q54. Please select any that apply:

Older people.....	<input type="radio"/>	People at risk of domestic or intimate partner violence.....	<input type="radio"/>
People who are homeless.....	<input type="radio"/>	Young people leaving care...	<input type="radio"/>
People with a learning disability.	<input type="radio"/>	People with drug or alcohol problems.....	<input type="radio"/>
People with a physical disability.	<input type="radio"/>	Offenders or people at risk of offending.....	<input type="radio"/>
People with poor mental health...	<input type="radio"/>	Other.....	<input type="radio"/>

If **other** please specify

Q55. If you would like to tell us the name of nursing /residential care home or supported accommodation unit where you work, please include it here:

Please tell us about the experience of shielding for the residents you work with

Q56. What **impact** has shielding (or the restrictions in the care home or supported accommodation unit where you work) had on the **quality of life** of those who you support?

Please use this box to respond to **Q56**. If you need more space, please use the back of this sheet of paper.

Q57. What **impact** has shielding (or the restrictions in the care home or supported accommodation unit where you work) had on your **ability to support** the residents you work with?

Please use this box to respond to **Q57**. If you need more space, please use the back of this sheet of paper.

Please tell us how the experience of shielding could be improved for the residents you work with

Q58. If your care home or supported accommodation unit continues to shield its residents, what changes could **the residents' support networks** make to improve day-to-day life for the residents and improve your ability to support them, while still allowing everyone to feel safe?

Please use this box to respond to **Q58**. If you need more space, please use the back of this sheet of paper.

Q59. If your care home or supported accommodation unit continues to shield its residents, what changes could **the accommodation provider** make to improve day-to-day life for the residents and improve your ability to support them, while still allowing everyone to feel safe?

Please use this box to respond to **Q59**. If you need more space, please use the back of this sheet of paper.

Q60. If your care home or supported accommodation unit continues to shield its residents, what changes could **public services or the government (e.g. councils, Department of Health)** make to improve day-to-day life for the residents and improve your ability to support them, while still allowing everyone to feel safe?

Please use this box to respond to **Q60**. If you need more space, please use the back of this sheet of paper.

Q61. If your care home or supported accommodation unit continues to shield its residents, what changes could **the wider community** make to improve day-to-day life for the residents and improve your ability to support them, while still allowing everyone to feel safe?

Please use this box to respond to **Q61**. If you need more space, please use the back of this sheet of paper.

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This survey is part of a wider consultation on relaxing current restrictions for those who are shielding due to COVID-19.

Q62. Would you be happy for us to contact you about being involved in future stages of the process? (By selecting "Yes" and providing your details, you consent to the Patient and Client Council securely retaining these details on file in order to contact you at a later date to ask about your experiences of shielding).

Yes.....

No.....

To allow us to contact you again, please provide the following details:

Q63. Full name:

Q64. Email address:

Q65. Phone number:

Q66. Do you require an interpreter?

Yes.....

No.....

If 'Yes', please specify which language:

ID _____

If you would like to provide further comment to this process via a facilitated online group session, please contact Laura Bonnes directly on 07881636320 or at laura.bonnes@pcc-ni.net

Q67. If you would also like to become a member of the Patient and Client Council's Make Change Together movement to further influence and shape the future of health and social care in Northern Ireland please tick the box below and we will be in contact in due course.

Yes (I would like to become a member of the Patient and Client Council's Make Change Together Movement)

Thank you for your participation and feedback