

From: WelshGovernment
Sent: 08 April 2020 17:40
To: DULIN, Laura
Cc: WelshGovernment-MS/MP
Subject: RE: Our ref: DD3875

Thank you for sending this through. I have been asked to respond.

More than 85,000 people in Wales have been sent a letter by the Chief Medical Officer for Wales because they have a specific pre-existing, long-term health condition, which means they are extremely vulnerable to serious illness if they are exposed to coronavirus. They have been asked to undertake a series of “shielding” measures, including staying at home for 12 weeks.

In recent days the Welsh Government has been working closely with the major supermarkets who offer online delivery services in Wales so that they can open up priority delivery slots for those individuals who have been advised to shield by the Chief Medical Officer. This has involved the preparation of data sharing agreements to enable the supermarkets to be made aware of all the individuals in Wales who are medically shielding. Individuals will not have to register their interest in this via another website.

Supermarkets will need to integrate this data into their own systems before they can open up these priority delivery slots so this may take a few days.

We have also worked with local authorities, with the Welsh Council for Voluntary Action and with food distributors to make sure there is support available for all those people who are shielding who cannot rely on family, friends, neighbours or a local network for help while they are shielding. This includes a free weekly food parcel and help collecting prescriptions. The “shielding” letter includes a contact number for people’s local council which they should call if they need such support, including a weekly food parcel, if they do not have support from family, friends, neighbours or a local network.

In addition to the shielded group there is a significant group of people who may be vulnerable for other reasons or self-identify as a vulnerable person and have thus chosen to self-isolate. In terms of food supply the advice for this group has been to ask family, friends or support groups to deliver to them, or to contact their local County Voluntary Council for help - <https://www.gvs.wales/about-us/wcva-county-voluntary-councils-cvcs-and-volunteer-centres-vcs> Welsh Government is working to identify how this group could be supported, and is in discussions regarding this.

Regards.

Rose Stewart
Swyddfa'r Prif Weinidog/First Minister's Office