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We understand that with the announcement of a new lockdown there are a number of patients concerned about the situation, especially those in very vulnerable risk groups and also those with children attending educational settings. The current government advice about high risk groups is available here, so please do share <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/new-national-restrictions-from-5-november> the government will be writing to affected patients. Unfortunately we have no additional information.

We have had some questions over the last few days since lockdown was announced, so thought it might be useful to answer them here.

- The UK Government stopped shielding support at the end of August 2020, GP's cannot provide a letter for any patient who wants to shield or work at home. If you wish to work from home you must discuss this with your employer not your GP.
- Anyone who was classed as "extremely vulnerable" should continue to follow the governments guidance about social distancing, wearing a mask and hand washing.
- The clinical team at Court Thorn Surgery will continue to hold initial telephone consultations for our patients. Patients will continue to be invited into the surgery if there is a clinical need to do so (except in some pre agreed conditions, which are triaged by our clinical team).
- Shielding is not being reintroduced (at the moment) and we understand that anyone who is classed as extremely vulnerable should take extra care.
- We are sorry that our clinical/admin team won't know any more than this if you phone the surgery. Please do be kind to staff, these are extraordinary times for us all.
- We understand and sympathise with people who are concerned about children attending educational settings, especially if a household has extremely vulnerable members. As a practice we are very sorry, but decisions about children attending school are not ours to make. We would suggest a discussion between the people involved and the school to decide the best course of action.

Thank you for your support during this worrying time for everyone, please remember we are OPEN just in a different way. If you have any health concerns please do not hesitate to ring the surgery on 016974-73548. Keep safe and please do look after each other.