

Moving and shielded people

The mainstay of the advice on shielded people remains the same ([here](#)). It was last updated on the 5th of May.

People in the “shielded” category are advised to comply with the following:

1. Do not leave your house.
2. Do not attend any gatherings. This includes gatherings of friends and families in private spaces, for example, family homes, weddings and religious services.
3. Strictly avoid contact with someone who is displaying symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19). These symptoms include high temperature and/or new and continuous cough.

The Government is currently advising people to shield until the end of June and is regularly monitoring this position.

The government’s position on moving house changed last week, alongside other measures to relax lockdown. They released guidelines ([here](#)) on how people can now move house safely. However, advice for people in the shielded category is very cautious:

Vulnerable people or those shielding

We recognise people who are shielding or otherwise vulnerable may also have pressing needs to move home; however, this should be balanced with the increased risks presented by coronavirus.

In line with government’s advice, those who are shielding or otherwise clinically vulnerable should ensure they are aware of the [medical advice](#), including on staying at home and avoiding unnecessary contacts over this period, if at all possible. All parties involved in home buying and selling should prioritise agreeing amicable arrangements to change move dates for individuals in this group, or where someone in a chain is in this group.

Clinically vulnerable and shielded individuals (i.e. those who have received a letter advising they are in the clinically extremely vulnerable group) will need to carefully consider their personal situation and the circumstances of their own move and may wish to seek medical advice before deciding whether to commit to or go ahead with a move. Some moves are likely to be lower risk - for instance if the home is empty, all travel can take place in their own transport and they can avoid contact with others.

We would encourage everyone in these categories who does intend to move, to make clear their status to all of the professionals involved in the process. They may be able to implement additional precautionary measures to further protect you”

Moving is still not permitted if the person or a member of their household are self-isolating:

People self-isolating or having tested positive for coronavirus

Moving home is not appropriate whilst you pose a direct risk of transmitting coronavirus. People who have coronavirus or are self-isolating with their family member should not leave their home to either move home, or undertake property viewings.

In summary, for someone in the shielded category to safely move they would need to:

- 1) Have no symptoms of coronavirus (themselves or household members)
- 2) Consider seeking medical advice related to their underlying illness and how to minimise their risk with regard to their personal circumstances
- 3) Be able to undertake the move using a private vehicle, only occupied by members of their own household
- 4) Packing should be done by household members or by the person.
- 5) Everyone else involved in the move must be able to keep a safe distance of at least 2 metres; ideally they should avoid all contact with people outside of their household.
- 6) Ideally the move should be made to a previously vacant property.

Completing the move safely, especially if a community are moving en masse, would require considerable planning and organisation to ensure that the above guidelines are met.