**MEA TEMPLATE LETTER RE: COVID VACCINE PRIORITY FOR PEOPLE WITH ME/CFS**

* Please modify the letter template to suit your individual circumstances.
* Then copy and paste to your own letterhead or email.
* Make sure it’s dated and signed, contains your home address and date of birth – then either email it or send by royal mail.

Dear [YOUR GPs NAME],

**Request to be included in Covid vaccine priority list**

I am writing to ascertain if, because I have a diagnosis of ME/CFS, I can be included in 'group 6' of the Covid vaccination priority list.

The ME Association (MEA) has advised that people in my situation should check with their GPs to see if I might have access to an earlier vaccination, given the increased risk that Covid infection poses to me.

The MEA is providing the following information for health professionals to consider and has confirmed that others with ME/CFS are being included in group 6 by their own GPs.

**1.** People with a chronic neurological disease are listed as having an underlying health condition in group 6 in the JCVI guidance.  See page 9 in Chapter 14a of the ‘green Book' guidance on Covid vaccine:

<https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/955548/Greenbook_chapter_14a_v6.pdf>

**2.**  Both the World Health Organisation (in ICD10 section G93.3) and NHS England classify ME/CFS as a neurological disease:

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/ourwork/clinical-policy/ltc/our-work-on-long-term-conditions/neurological/>

**3.**  Even though ME/CFS does not feature as a named example of a neurological disease in the ‘green book’ list of neurological conditions, the guidance makes it clear that the examples are not intended to be exhaustive.

**4.**  The 'green book' guidance (page 10) states that:

“The examples above are not exhaustive, and, within these groups, the prescriber should apply clinical judgment to take into account the risk of COVID-19 exacerbating any underlying disease that a patient may have, as well as the risk of serious illness from COVID-19 itself.”

**5**. New infections are probably the commonest cause of exacerbation or relapse of ME/CFS – as noted in section 3.3.2 of the Chief Medical Officer’s Working Group Report on ME/CFS:

<https://meassociation.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/CMO-Report-2002.pdf>

and in section 1.6.4 of the new (draft) NICE clinical guideline on ME/CFS which will become operational in April 2021:

<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/gid-ng10091/documents/draft-guideline>

**6.**  Patient evidence to the MEA also indicates that almost everyone with ME/CFS who has caught COVID-19 has had a  significant and/or prolonged relapse of ME/CFS.  This is not surprising given the considerable degree of clinical overlap between ME/CFS and Long Covid.

I would therefore be very grateful if you could confirm that I have been added to the Group 6 list.

**[You might like to include a brief paragraph here about your own self-isolation and ME/CFS severity which could make it difficult for you to attend a vaccination centre without increasing the risk of infection. We have heard from people with ME/CFS who have received the vaccine at home because of their illness severity and housebound/bedbound status.]**

To ensure that I can be contacted as soon as I am eligible, please add my mobile number to my file as a primary means of contacting me.

Thank you very much in advance for your time and indeed for everything you and your other NHS colleagues are doing during this pandemic.

**Kind regards,**

**Full name**

**Address**

**Date of birth**

**NHS Patient Number**