March 2021

Dear [enter GP surgery name],

I am writing to ask whether, due to my eating disorder, I will be considered in ‘priority group 6’ to receive the COVID-19 vaccine.

NHS England has asked GPs to prioritise people with severe mental illness and to apply a flexible approach to defining SMI.[[1]](#footnote-1) The ‘Green Book’ guidance on COVID-19, states SMI to include individuals with ‘schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, or any mental illness that causes severe functional impairment.’[[2]](#footnote-2) As referenced in NHS England guidance, the latter category should consider those severely unwell with an eating disorder.[[3]](#footnote-3)

Beat, the eating disorder charity, has advised that I should discuss my eligibility for priority vaccination with my GP. They point out that:

1. Eating disorders are associated with physical health risks that are also risk factors for COVID-19.
2. As research has not yet determined the extent of the risk of COVID-19 to people with eating disorders, a cautious, preventative approach should be taken.

I would be grateful for any clarification you can provide as to whether I can be prioritised for the vaccine.

Yours sincerely,

Full name:

Address:

Date of birth:

NHS number:

1. NHS England, Vaccination of Cohorts 5-6 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. COVID-19 Greenbook Chapter 14a [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. NHS England, ‘If you have a severe mental illness, the time to get your COVID-19 vaccination is now.’ (23 March 2021) [↑](#footnote-ref-3)