

The Rt Hon Matt Hancock MP
Secretary of State for Health and Social Care
Department of Health and Social Care
39 Victoria St
London
SW1H 0EU

Dear Secretary of State

The Blood Cancer Alliance has today written to the JCVI to ask for a formal review of the 12-week delay between vaccine doses for immunocompromised blood cancer patients. I attach a copy of our letter herewith. As you will see, emerging evidence now suggests a single dose of the Pfizer vaccine offers limited protection to blood cancer patients.

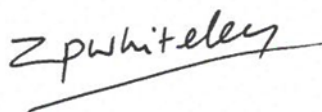
While we are asking the JCVI to now review whether the 12-week time frame is still appropriate for clinically extremely vulnerable blood cancer patients, we recognise that this is a small study. We therefore also ask that you consider whether investment can be made available for wider studies of vaccine efficacy among blood cancer and solid tumour cancer patients, so that their longer-term vaccine response can be better understood, both in terms of first and second doses.

Only by fully understanding vaccine efficacy among the immunocompromised, will we see blood cancer patients feel confident to emerge from under the shielding measures that have severely restricted their lives for over a year now. Therefore, while vaccine efficacy is unknown, we also ask that you do everything in your power to extend shielding guidance. This will ensure those shielding can access Government support such as furlough schemes, but also that they are able to counter any pressure from employers to return to work before they fully understand whether they are protected by the vaccination.

Lastly, we again would ask you to consider the case for prioritising those living with the clinically extremely vulnerable within the vaccination programme, in order to minimise as far as possible the risk to those who we are unclear whether the vaccination can protect.

The BCA would welcome an opportunity to meet with you to discuss these issues in more detail.

Your sincerely,



Zack Pemberton-Whiteley

Chair, Blood Cancer Alliance

On behalf of: ACLT, Anthony Nolan, Blood Cancer UK, CLL Support, CML Support, DKMS, Leukaemia Care, Leukaemia and Lymphoma Northern Ireland, Leukaemia Cancer Society, Leukaemia UK, Lymphoma Action, MDS UK, Myeloma UK, Race Against Blood Cancer and WMUK.

cc: Jo Churchill MP – Minister for Prevention, Public Health and Primary Care