

Coronavirus: classifications and how they apply to people with dementia (PwD) and carers

NHS/PHE group	Who is included	Advice	Are PwD (living at home) included?	Are carers (in same household) included?
General public	Well people of all ages	Social distancing or stay at home ('lockdown')	Yes – but are also 'vulnerable' (see below) so should follow social distancing rules 'particularly stringently'	Yes – will often also be 'vulnerable' (see below) so should follow social distancing rules 'particularly stringently'
Coronavirus symptoms (any age)	Anyone with fever or new continuous cough (virus testing not needed to qualify)	Self-isolation ('quarantine') The 7 or 14 day rules	Yes - if they or a household member has symptoms. (Additional measures as PwD is vulnerable)	Yes - if they or a household member has symptoms (Additional measures as PwD – and possibly carer too – are vulnerable)
Increased risk ('vulnerable') ¹	Well but at higher risk of severe Covid-19 if infected. At least one of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • age 70 or over • long-term condition (eg. dementia, COPD, heart failure, diabetes) • pregnant 	Follow social distancing and be ' particularly stringent ' in this (e.g. get others to shop or go online, and only go out for exercise, if possible)	Yes – dementia is a long-term neurological condition ¹ (and 95% of PwD are 70+ anyway) Many PwD will also have other long-term conditions, most often heart failure or diabetes	Yes if they meet the criteria (70+ and/or heart failure, diabetes, COPD etc) Most older carers will be at increased risk of severe Covid-19
'Extremely vulnerable' (special patients list)	Well but at very high risk of severe Covid-19 if infected Any age with (examples only) organ transplant, leukaemia or severe asthma	Shielding – not going outside even to exercise (Will get a GP letter and can register to get food and meds at home)	Only if they meet the criteria This will be a small proportion of PwD	Only if they meet the criteria This will be a small proportion of carers

1. Those offered the [annual flu jab on medical grounds](#).
2. Dementia is – unhelpfully - not mentioned in the list. We have asked PHE to make it clear that dementia is a long-term neurological condition. 'Vulnerable' and 'Extremely vulnerable' refer only to clinical risk of severe Covid-19 disease, not broader types of vulnerability.