

Cystic

Fibrosis a fight we must win

Mr George Eustice
Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Seacole Building
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

27 March 2020

Dear Mr Eustice,

Cystic fibrosis (CF) is a life-shortening, progressive, genetic condition. It causes a build-up of thick sticky mucus that causes severe, irreversible damage to the lungs and digestive system, making it hard to breathe and to digest food.

Over 10,500 people in the UK have cystic fibrosis. Due to their increased risk of respiratory complications, people with cystic fibrosis have been categorised as one of the groups most at risk from coronavirus and must socially shield for at least 12 weeks.

It is important that, during the shielding period, people with cystic fibrosis can access the goods and services they need to stay well. Due to difficulties digesting food, people with cystic fibrosis have significant additional nutritional requirements. They must take digestive enzymes whenever they eat to help them get the nutrients they need from food. They also require a high-fat, high-calorie diet in order to stay as healthy as possible and help fight the infections that can damage their lungs and shorten their lives.

We ask for your support to ensure that people with cystic fibrosis are recognised as a vulnerable group and support is put in place. People with cystic fibrosis require assistance and protection to access supermarket deliveries and shopping times for vulnerable people. If supermarket supply chains remain or become increasingly disrupted and inaccessible, people with cystic fibrosis and their families will require food parcels and emergency supplies.

This will ensure people with cystic fibrosis can follow government advice and stay as well as possible during this difficult time. We thank you for all you are doing to support vulnerable people. Due to the need to social shield, people with cystic fibrosis **cannot** leave their homes to shop for food or for any other purpose. For others living in the same household, to leave their homes to shop for food increases the risk of them catching coronavirus and potentially passing it on to the person with cystic fibrosis they live with, which could have devastating consequences.

Yours sincerely,

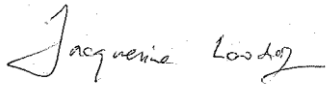


David Ramsden
Chief Executive

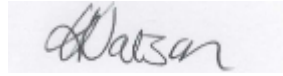


Dr Caroline Elston
UKCFMA Chair
Consultant, Respiratory Medicine

King's College Hospital, London

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jacqueline Lowdon". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J'.

**Jacqueline Lowdon
Co-Chair of the CF Dietitians
Group of the British Dietetic Association**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kerry Lee Watson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'K'.

**Kerry Lee Watson
Chair of the British Dietetic Association
Clinical Lead Cystic Fibrosis Dietitians
Kings College Hospital, London**