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Which individuals with Osteogenesis Imperfecta need to be prioritised for COVID-19 vaccination.

This advice is based on the 30th December 2020 NHS Priority groups for COVID-19 Vaccination that can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/priority-groups-for-coronavirus-covid-19-vaccination-advice-from-the-jcvi-30-december-2020>

Vaccination against COVID19 is one part of the NHS's response to managing the COVID pandemic. All individuals should see vaccination as part of the NHS response and continue to follow other NHS recommendations that can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

We recognise the concerns for individuals and their families regarding who should be a *high* priority for the first waves of vaccination. This level of prioritization for the vaccination only applies to adults with conditions recognised as making them *extremely clinically vulnerable*.

Adults with severe Osteogenesis Imperfecta (which includes Type III as well as some patients with Type IV) AND have severe deformity of their chest wall (for example need overnight breathing assistance or home oxygen) would meet this high priority for vaccination as part of severe respiratory conditions group. Some individuals may be prioritised for other reasons and the fuller list can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19>

For other adults, children, parents and guardians for individuals with osteogenesis imperfecta please follow the other very important recommendations and await the next waves of vaccination for groups 5 and 6 (see Green Book reference below for more information). While some research has suggested the lungs of individuals with OI are abnormal this is not severe and does not mean all individuals with OI should be a high priority for vaccination.

COVID-19 vaccination is not currently licensed or recommended for children under 16 years of age.

Carers who are eligible for a carer's allowance, or those who are the sole or primary carer of an elderly or disabled person who is clinically vulnerable to COVID-19 should be vaccinated in priority group 6 (see Green Book reference below)

More information on the types of OI can be found here on a very helpful video by

Professor Richard Keen here: <https://brittlebone.org/what-is-oi/about-oi/>

As well as on the OIF website here: <https://oif.org/informationcenter/about-oi/> and

OIFE website here: <https://oife.org/what-is-oi/>

Information on the priority groups for vaccination can be found on table 3 in the Green book here:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-the-green-book-chapter-14a>

We will keep you updated as the guidance changes.

Keep safe and stay in touch with the BBS either by email at admin@brittlebone.org or by tel 07507 814290

On behalf of the Brittle Bone Society Medical Advisory Board