**This Action for M.E. template letter/email sets out why people with M.E. should be a priority for the Covid-19 booster. We would encourage you to edit it to add your own voice for the best chance of a personalised response, and please let us know how you get on.**

Dear

Please can I share the following information with you regarding my eligibility for having the Covid-19 booster as a priority, as someone living with myalgic encephalomyelitis (M.E.), sometimes diagnosed as chronic fatigue syndrome (CFS, or M.E./CFS).

The JCVI has advised that individuals who received vaccination in phase 1 of the Covid-19 vaccination programme (priority groups 1 to 9) should be offered a third dose COVID-19 booster vaccine. This includes:

* those living in residential care homes for older adults
* all adults aged 50 years or over
* frontline health and social care workers
* all those aged 16 to 49 years with underlying health conditions that put them at higher risk of severe COVID-19 (as set out in the [Green Book](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1033391/Greenbook_chapter_14a_15Nov21.pdf)), and adult carers
* adult household contacts (aged 16 or over) of immunosuppressed individuals.

The Green Book includes those with chronic neurological disease in its clinical risk groups (table 3 on page 14), specifically: "*Stroke, transient ischaemic attack (TIA). Conditions in which respiratory function may be compromised due to neurological or neuromuscular disease (e.g. polio syndrome sufferers). This group also includes individuals with cerebral palsy, severe or profound and multiple learning disabilities (PMLD), Down’s syndrome, multiple sclerosis, epilepsy, dementia, Parkinson’s disease, motor neurone disease and related or similar conditions; or hereditary and degenerative disease of the nervous system or muscles; or severe neurological disability."*

**While M.E. is not mentioned specifically, I believe the severity of my M.E. means that the "severe neurological disability" criteria applies to me.**

My understanding is that GP surgeries are responsible for identifying eligible patients to invite for the vaccine, based on the JCVI guidance and risk status. I’m therefore asking you to assess my risk, so that you can appropriately assess my priority level for the booster.

You can find more information and resources at:

* [www.actionforme.org.uk/medical](http://www.actionforme.org.uk/medical) for information for professionals on diagnosis, aetiology, prevalence, referrals and symptom management
* [www.studyprn.com/p/chronic-fatigue-syndrome](http://www.studyprn.com/p/chronic-fatigue-syndrome) for a free, CPD-accredited online M.E. learning module for professionals
* [www.actionforme.org.uk/info-and-support](http://www.actionforme.org.uk/info-and-support) for information, support and advocacy services for people with M.E. of all ages – or call 0117 927 9551.

With thanks for your time and best regards