



Department of Health & Social Care

Freedom of Information Team
Department of Health and Social Care
39 Victoria Street
London SW1H 0EU

www.gov.uk/dhsc

Ms Emily Mackay
request-733415-360b30fc@whatdotheyknow.com

14 April 2021

Dear Ms Mackay,

Freedom of Information Request Reference FOI-1311736

Thank you for your request dated 4 March, in which you asked the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC):

"1. What does 'informed consent' imply when people agree to take the vaccines approved for emergency use (like FluBlok and all COVID vaccines). I require full list and also any documentation you have regarding informed consent and/or the point at which the patient agrees or is assumed to have agreed to the vaccination.

2. What studies are available which show that a-symptomatic people spread Covid.

3. All studies done on the safety of these vaccines on people with immune deficiencies and autoimmune disease (such as T1 diabetes and hashimoto's disease)

4. All reports on adverse reactions relating to Covid vaccines.

5. At what point are the people being vaccinated asked to report any side effects after having the vaccine (since we know the adverse reactions are being evaluated on an ongoing basis). This I ask because I have yet to meet anyone who has been vaccinated who was asked to do this!"

Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). Please accept my apologies for the delay in our response.

1. What does 'informed consent' imply when people agree to take the vaccines approved for emergency use (like FluBlok and all COVID vaccines). I require full list and also any documentation you have regarding informed consent and/or the point at which the patient agrees or is assumed to have agreed to the vaccination.

DHSC does not hold information relevant to your request.

You may wish to instead contact NHS England & Improvement (NHSE&I) as they may hold information relevant to your request. Details of how to submit an FOI request to NHSE&I can be

found on the following webpage: [NHS England » How to make a Freedom of Information request to NHS England](#)

2. What studies are available which show that a-symptomatic people spread Covid.

DHSC holds information relevant to your request. DHSC commissions research through the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR). As the nation's largest funder of health and care research, the NIHR is funding a wide portfolio of research on COVID-19, including studies investigating transmission and infection of COVID in asymptomatic individuals. This includes the following studies, of which some are funded jointly with UK Research and Innovation (UKRI).

Studies jointly funded by NIHR and UKRI:

- **Coronavirus STORY (Serum Testing of Representative Youngsters)** with £573,000 in funding, – <https://www.fundingawards.nihr.ac.uk/award/CV220-036>
- **HICC: Humoral Immune Correlates for COVID19: Defining protective responses and critical readouts for Clinical Trials of Vaccines and Therapeutics** with £1,587,288 in funding – <https://www.fundingawards.nihr.ac.uk/award/COV0170>
- **TraCK- Transmission of COVID-19 in Kids** with £267,388 in funding - <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/covid-19/covid-19-studies-jointly-funded-with-ukri.htm>
- **Investigating SARS-CoV-2 Transmission in North London Communities** with £251,240 in funding – <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/covid-19/covid-19-studies-jointly-funded-with-ukri.htm>
- **COPE-Birmingham: The contribution of occupational exposures to risk of COVID-19 and approaches to control among healthcare workers** with £444,883 in funding – <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/covid-19/covid-19-studies-jointly-funded-with-ukri.htm>
- **COVID-19 Mapping and Mitigation in Schools (CoMMInS)** with £2,648,787 funding – <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/covid-19/covid-19-studies-jointly-funded-with-ukri.htm>
- **Virus Watch: Understanding community incidence, symptom profiles, and transmission of COVID-19 in relation to population movement and behaviour** with £3,248,052 in funding – <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/covid-19/covid-19-studies-jointly-funded-with-ukri.htm>

3. All studies done on the safety of these vaccines on people with immune deficiencies and auto immune disease (such as T1 diabetes and hashimotos disease)

DHSC does not hold information relevant to your request.

You may wish to instead contact Public Health England (PHE) as they may hold information relevant to your request. Details of how to submit an FOI request to PHE can be found at the bottom of the following webpage: [Public Health England - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

4. All reports on adverse reactions relating to Covid vaccines.

DHSC does not hold information relevant to your request.

Outside of the FOIA, and on a discretionary basis, you may find the following information useful. This information is published weekly by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) at the following webpage: [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) vaccine adverse reactions - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

5. At what point are the people being vaccinated asked to report any side effects after having the vaccine (since we know the adverse reactions are being evaluated on an

ongoing basis). This I ask because I have yet to meet anyone who has been vaccinated who was asked to do this!

DHSC does not hold information relevant to your request.

You may wish to instead contact NHS England & Improvement (NHSE&I) as they may hold information relevant to your request. Details of how to submit an FOI request to NHSE&I can be found on the following webpage: [NHS England » How to make a Freedom of Information request to NHS England](#)

If you are not satisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to appeal by asking for an internal review. This should be submitted within two months of the date of this letter and sent to FreedomOfInformation@dhsc.gov.uk, or to the address at the top of this letter.

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communication.

If you are not content with the outcome of your internal review, you may complain directly to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO). Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have already appealed our original response and received our internal review decision. You should raise your concerns with the ICO within three months of your last meaningful contact with us.

The ICO can be contacted at:

The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

<https://ico.org.uk/concerns/>

Yours sincerely,

Piper Hewitt-Dudding
Freedom of Information Officer
FreedomOfInformation@dhsc.gov.uk