



UK Health  
Security  
Agency

**By email**

[request-878664-16251c57@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:request-878664-16251c57@whatdotheyknow.com)

Our ref: 14/07/22/LT/478

11 August 2022

Dear Irene Boyle,

**Re: Freedom of Information request: Use of anti-virals against Covid-19**

Thank you for your request received on 14 July 2022 addressed to the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA). In accordance with Section 1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act), we can confirm that UKHSA does not hold the information you have specified.

***Request***

***With regards to the above, I would like to know why sulphasalazine is not considered to be sufficiently immunosuppressant to warrant additional covid 19 booster vaccinations and access to anti viral treatments if patients become ill with covid.***

***I was considered clinically extremely vulnerable in the past due to Rheumatoid Arthritis and other co-morbidities and initially thought that I would be eligible for anti viral treatments. However, on looking further it appears that only those on certain medications will receive these. As a result, I have continued shielding and live a very restricted life, even more so since masks etc are no longer a legal requirement.***

***Response***

The Joint Committee Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) team has advised COVID-19 vaccination in autumn 2022 for people who are in a clinical risk group, as defined in the publication 'Immunisation Against Infectious Diseases', known as 'the Green Book'. This document provides guidance to healthcare professionals on all aspects of UK vaccination programmes. Immunosuppression is included in chapter 14a of the Green Book, table 3.

A link to the COVID-19 chapter of the 'Green Book' can be found below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-the-green-book-chapter-14a>

General information on immunisation of individuals with underlying medical conditions is available in Chapter 7 of the Green Book can be found below:  
[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/857279/Greenbook\\_chapter\\_7\\_Immunising\\_immunosuppressed.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/857279/Greenbook_chapter_7_Immunising_immunosuppressed.pdf)

The use of COVID-19 antivirals are managed by the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC). You can contact them through the following webpage: <https://contactus.dhsc.gov.uk/>

If you have any queries regarding the information that has been supplied to you, please refer your query to the Information Rights Team in writing in the first instance. If you remain dissatisfied and would like to request an internal review, then please contact us at the address above or by emailing [InformationRights@UKHSA.gov.uk](mailto:InformationRights@UKHSA.gov.uk).

Please note that you have the right to an independent review by the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) if a complaint cannot be resolved through the UKHSA complaints procedure. The ICO can be contacted by calling the ICO's helpline on 0303 123 1113, visiting the ICO's website at [www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk) or writing to the ICO at Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

Yours sincerely,  
Information Rights Team