

COVID-19 - Identifying patients for shielding in England

| Risk stratification guide | Patients to shield | Patients to self-isolate or maintain social distance at their discretion | Patients to maintain social distance |
|------------------------------|---|---|--|
| Immunosuppressive medication | Corticosteroid dose of ≥20mg (0.5mg/kg) prednisolone (or equivalent) per day for more than four weeks Cyclophosphamide at any dose orally or within last six months IV Corticosteroid dose of ≥5mg prednisolone (or equivalent) per day for more than four weeks plus at least one other immunosuppressive medication*, biologic/ monoclonal** or small molecule immunosuppressant (e.g. JAK inhibitors)*** Any two agents among immunosuppressive medications, biologics/monoclonals** or small molecule immunosuppressants with any co-morbidity**** | Well-controlled patients with minimal disease activity and no co-morbidities on single agent broad spectrum immunosuppressive medication, biologic/monoclonal** or small molecule immunosuppressant Well-controlled patients with minimal disease activity and no co-morbidities on single agent broad spectrum immunosuppressive medication plus Sulphasalazine and/ or hydroxychloroquine Well-controlled patients with minimal disease activity and no co-morbidities on a single agent broad spectrum immunosuppressive medication* at standard dose (eg Methotrexate up to 25mg per week) <i>plus</i> single biologic (eg anti-TNF or JAKi)** or *** | Single agent 5-ASA medications (eg mesalazine) Single agent6-mercaptopurine Only inhaled or rectally administered immunosuppressant medication Hydroxychloroquine Sulphasalazine |

^{*} Immunosuppressive medications include: Azathioprine, Leflunomide, methotrexate, Mycophenolate (mycophenolate mofetil or mycophenolic acid), ciclosporin, cyclophosphamide, tacrolimus, sirolimus. It does **NOT** include Hydroxychloroquine or Sulphasalazine either alone or in combination.

NB This advice applies to both adults, children and young people with rheumatic disease. We do NOT advise that patients increase steroid dose if they become unwell

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^{**} Biologic/monocolonal includes: Rituximab within last 12 months; all anti-TNF drugs (etanercept, adalimumab, infliximab, golimumab, certolizumab and biosimilar variants of all of these); Tociluzimab; Abatacept; Belimumab; Anakinra; Seukinumab; Ixekizumab; Ustekinumab; Sarilumumab; canakinumab

^{***} Small molecules includes: all JAK inhibitors – baracitinib, tofacitinib etc

^{****} Co-morbidity includes: age >70, Diabetes Mellitus, any pre-existing lung disease, renal impairment, any history of Ischaemic Heart Disease or hypertension