## COVID-19 - Identifying patients for shielding in England

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<th>Patients to self-isolate or maintain social distance at their discretion</th>
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| **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 (e.g. Methotrexate up to 25mg per week) plus single biologic (e.g 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.

** Biologic/monoclonal 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;

*** Small molecules include: 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. Patients who have rheumatoid arthritis (RA) or CTD-related interstitial lung disease (ILD) are at additional risk and may need to be placed in the shielding category. All patients with pulmonary hypertension are placed in the shielding category

NB This advice applies to 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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