

RE: FOI 23/988 - Covid-19 and flu vaccinations

MHRA Customer Services <MHRACustomerServices@mhra.gov.uk>

Thu 18/01/2024 14:40

To

**FOI 23/988**

Dear

Many thanks for your email dated 16 December 2023 in which you stated that you are advised by NHS England that having both flu and coronavirus vaccinations will reduce your risk of serious illness (hospitalisation or death) and that at least persons over 75 years of age will recover more quickly if they have both vaccinations. NHS England say that this advice is based on information supplied by the MHRA. You have requested the source on which the MHRA relied for this information.

**Please find our response below.**

Data assessed by the MHRA that supported concomitant administration of COVID-19 mRNA Vaccine BNT162b2 with influenza vaccines (but at separate injection sites) were based on the ComFluCOV study [EudraCT Number: 2021-001124-18].

The study has been published in the Lancet and is available using the link below:

“Safety and immunogenicity of concomitant administration of COVID-19 vaccines (ChAdOx1 or BNT162b2) with seasonal influenza vaccines in adults in the UK (ComFluCOV): a multicentre, randomised, controlled, phase 4 trial”

[https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(21\)02329-1/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(21)02329-1/fulltext)

We trust that you will find this information of use. However, if you disagree with how we have interpreted the Freedom of Information Act 2000 in answering your request, you can ask us to review our actions and decisions by writing to: [info@mhra.gov.uk](mailto:info@mhra.gov.uk), and requesting an internal review.

Please note that your internal review request must be in a recordable format (email, letter, audio tape etc.), and that you have 40 working days upon receipt of this letter to ask for a review. We aim to provide a full response to your review request within 20 working days of its receipt. Please quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you would have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Please bear in mind that the Information Commissioner will not normally review our handling of your request unless you have first contacted us to conduct an internal review. The Information Commissioner can be contacted online via an electronic form: <https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/foi-and-eir-complaints/foi-and-eir-complaints/>

Or in writing to:

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

Yours sincerely,

**MHRA Customer Experience Centre**

Communications and engagement  
Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency  
10 South Colonnade, Canary Wharf, London E14 4PU

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Saturday, December 16, 2023 9:29 AM  
To: MHRA Customer Services <[MHRACustomerServices@mhra.gov.uk](mailto:MHRACustomerServices@mhra.gov.uk)>  
Subject: FOI 23/988 - Covid-19 and flu vaccinations

[You don't often get email from [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

Dear Sirs,

I am advised by NHS England that having both flu and coronavirus vaccinations will reduce my risk of serious illness (hospitalisation or death) and that at least persons over 75 years of age will recover more quickly if they have both vaccinations.

NHS England say that this advice is based on information supplied by you. I do not doubt that it is true but I should be grateful if you would let me have the source on which you relied for this information.

Presumably the ultimate source of the above-mentioned information would have statistics based on results of trials or analysis of data relating to vaccinations and non-vaccinations of individuals.

Please would you treat this as a Freedom of Information Request if necessary.

What I seek ultimately are some figures relating to risk of serious illness. E.g perhaps the risk of serious illness is 5% without vaccination, reducing to 2% with vaccination. I appreciate that you may not have such figures but your source or an earlier source would have such figures.

I look forward to your response.

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]

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