



Jake Wilson
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Dear Jake Wilson,

Thank you for your email of 19/06/21 to the Scottish Government about vaccinations. Ministers and senior officials in the Scottish Government are receiving a large amount of correspondence and I hope that you will understand that, as much as they would like to, it is not always possible for them to reply personally to each case. I have therefore been asked to respond to you on this occasion as I work in the Scottish Government Vaccinations Division.

I appreciate the time you have taken to write in to us with your concerns about vaccines and your queries about Ivermectin and hydroxychloroquine/zinc. I can confirm your feedback has been received and recorded and I hope the following information is of help.

All our decision making in responding to Covid-19 is guided by the latest scientific evidence from the Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies ([SAGE](#)), advice from Health Protection Scotland and our Chief Medical Officer. The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) provides advice on immunisation to all UK Health Departments, including on the efficacy and safety of vaccines.

Vaccination of 18-49 year olds

In line with JCVI advice, the vaccination programme in Scotland has sought to maximise the number of people vaccinated in the groups most at risk before moving on to other groups. The JCVI's recommendation continues to be that an age-based approach is the best way to address the risk of severe illness and mortality. This simple approach helps us to do that as quickly as possible.

I appreciate you are familiar with the Public Health Scotland website but I would draw your attention to the following page [COVID-19 statistical report 16 June 2021 - Data & intelligence from PHS \(isdscotland.org\)](#) which states that in the week ending 8 June 2021, there were 158 admissions to hospital with a laboratory confirmed test of COVID-19. The highest number of new admissions were

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seen amongst those aged 30-39 years and 40-49 years. Prior to the vaccination roll-out, the highest number of new admissions each week were consistently in people aged 50+ years.

It is vital for the current Covid-19 vaccination programme to reach everyone both for individual health and our collective community wellbeing. Choosing to get a vaccine is good for you and your community. As more people in a community take a vaccine, fewer people can become sick and pass on the disease to others. This helps protect people in the community who cannot take a vaccine, like young children or people who are vulnerable. This is called herd immunity or herd protection.

Trials of medicines/treatments for COVID-19

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) is the UK agency responsible for the approval of clinical trials in the UK and of marketing authorisations (licences) for new medicinal products. The MHRA together with independent advisory groups, continues to review the emerging body of evidence regarding potential medicines for treatment or prevention of COVID-19. The Scottish Government does not have any direct involvement in determining which medicines the MHRA consider.

The Scottish Government work closely with the MHRA to ensure that people in Scotland can access the best possible medicines.

Ivermectin

The MHRA is aware that Ivermectin, is being studied for safety and efficacy in numerous clinical trials worldwide. However, it is currently not licensed for use in the treatment of COVID-19 symptoms in the UK. The MHRA has advised that, at this time, no application has been received for a licence for Ivermectin in the treatment of COVID-19, in the UK. Should an application for a licence be made for an Ivermectin containing medicine, then the MHRA has processes in place to expedite such an application, as required.

Hydroxychloroquine

Regarding the use of hydroxychloroquine/zinc as an effective treatment for COVID-19, there is no evidence to support this.

Vaccines remain the best way to protect people from COVID-19 and have already saved thousands of lives and prevented thousands more hospital admissions with serious COVID effects. Vaccinating people as quickly as possible will help drive infection rates down, particularly as recently a significantly more infectious and potentially faster spreading strain of COVID has developed.

Additional information about the COVID-19 vaccines can be found on NHS Inform, at: [The vaccines used to protect against coronavirus | The coronavirus \(COVID-19\) vaccine \(nhsinform.scot\)](#). More information on vaccine safety can be found at [COVID-19 Greenbook chapter 14a \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#).

Wearing of face coverings

The Scottish Government's position on the use of mandatory face coverings, both in the community and in the workplace remains the same following the emergence of the new variants.

Face coverings are an important part of stopping the spread of coronavirus. There is [scientific evidence](#) that face coverings are effective in reducing the transmission of coronavirus and the [World Health Organisation](#) recommends their use in the community and in certain workplaces. The best scientific and medical evidence available is that, when used correctly, wearing a face covering provides some

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additional protection, especially in crowded and less well ventilated spaces, and where two metre physical distancing is not possible.

When used in addition to other core mitigations, such as physical distancing, hand and environmental hygiene, and ventilation, face coverings provide adequate protection for use in the community and in most workplaces. They also serve a purpose in source control by reducing contamination to the surrounding environment. Accessibility of face coverings has always been a key consideration of the Scottish Government.

I hope this information has been of help. Please be assured that the health, wellbeing, and safety of people is our priority. In developing our policy, Ministers have sought to balance the twin aims of reducing the transmission of COVID-19 with wider health and social considerations to best protect you and those around you.

Thank you for contacting the Scottish Government.

Yours sincerely

Ciara McCullagh
RSOC : Correspondence Team

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