CLAIMS:

1. A pharmaceutical composition comprising at least one sulfonated azo food dye for use in the prophylaxis or treatment of virus infection or virus-related disease, wherein the virus is enterovirus 71 (EV71), coxsackievirus A16 (CVA16) and/or coxsackievirus A6 (CVA6), wherein the at least one azo food dye is selected from a group comprising:
E102 Tartrazine (Trisodium (4E)-5-oxo-1-(4-sulfonatophenyl)-4-[(4-sulfonatophenyl)hydrazono]-3-pyrazolecarboxylate),
E110 Sunset Yellow FCF (Disodium 6-hydroxy-5-[(4-sulfophenyl)azo]-2-naphthalenesulfonate),
E122 Carmoisine (disodium 4-hydroxy-2-[(*E*)-(4-sulfonato-1-naphthyl)diazenyl]naphthalene-1-sulfonate),
E123 Amaranth (Trisodium (4*E*)-3-oxo-4-[(4-sulfonato-1-naphthyl)hydrazono]naphthalene-2,7-disulfonate),
E124 Ponceau 4R (1-(4-sulpho-1-napthylazo)- 2-napthol- 6,8-disulphonic acid, trisodium salt),
E126 Ponceau 6R (disodium 7-hydroxy-8-(naphthalen-1-diazenyl)naphthalene-1,3-disulfonate),
E129 Allura Red (Disodium 6-hydroxy-5-[(2-methoxy-5-methyl-4-sulfophenyl)azo]-2-naphthalenesulfonate) and
E151 Brilliant Black BN (tetrasodium 4-acetamido-5-hydroxy-6-[7-sulphonato-4-(4-sulphonatophenylazo)-1-naphtylazo]naphthalene-1,7-disulphonate);
wherein when the virus is EV71, the at least one sulfonated azo food dye is selected from E151 Brilliant Black BN, E102 Tartrazine, E110 Sunset Yellow FCF, E122 Carmoisine, E123 Amaranth, E124 Ponceau 4R, E126 Ponceau 6R, or E129 Allura Red, and wherein when the virus is CVA6 and/or CVA16, the at least one sulfonated azo food dye is E151 Brilliant Black BN.

2. The composition for use according to claim 1, wherein the virus-related disease is selected from a group comprising hand, foot and mouth disease (HFMD), polio, aseptic meningitis, encephalitis, acute flaccid paralysis and acute cardiopulmonary dysfunction.

3. The composition for use according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the at least one food dye is selected from a group consisting of E122 Carmoisine, E123 Amaranth, E129 Allura Red and E151 Brilliant Black BN.

4. The composition for use according to any one of claims 1 to 3, comprising pharmaceutically acceptable salts or solvates, or pharmaceutically functional derivatives of said at least one food azo dye.

5. The composition for use according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the composition is formulated to be administered orally and/or or topically to a subject.

6. The composition for use according to claim 5, wherein the composition is formulated as a gel, cream, foam, lotion or ointment.

7. The composition for use according to claim 5 or 6, wherein the composition is formulated to be administered continuously to a subject for a period of 2 to 5 days, preferably a period of 3 to 4 days.

8. The composition for use according to claim 7, wherein the composition is formulated to be administered at up to a maximum dose of 4 mg/kg body weight/day (for E122); 15 mg/kg body weight/day (for E123); 7 mg/kg body weight/day (for E129) or 5 mg/kg body weight/day (for E151).

9. Use of the composition of any one of claims 1 to 8 for the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment or prophylaxis of enterovirus infection or enterovirus-related disease, wherein the enterovirus is EV71, coxsackievirus A16 (CVA16) and/or coxsackievirus A6 (CVA6), wherein when the virus is EV71, the at least one sulfonated azo food dye is selected from E151 Brilliant Black BN, E102 Tartrazine, E110 Sunset Yellow FCF, E122 Carmoisine, E123 Amaranth, E124 Ponceau 4R, E126 Ponceau 6R, or E129 Allura Red, and wherein when the virus is CVA6 and/or CVA16, the at least one sulfonated azo food dye is E151 Brilliant Black BN.

10. The use according to claim 9, wherein the enterovirus-related disease is hand, foot and mouth disease (HFMD), polio, aseptic meningitis, encephalitis, acute flaccid paralysis, or acute cardiopulmonary dysfunction.

11. A kit for use in the treatment or prevention of enterovirus infection or enterovirus-related disease, wherein the virus is EV71, coxsackievirus A16 (CVA16) and/or coxsackievirus A6 (CVA6), the kit comprising the composition of any one of claims 1 to 8; wherein when the virus is EV71, the at least one sulfonated azo food dye is selected from E151 Brilliant Black BN,

E102 Tartrazine, E110 Sunset Yellow FCF, E122 Carmoisine, E123 Amaranth, E124 Ponceau 4R, E126 Ponceau 6R, or E129 Allura Red, and wherein when the virus is CVA6 and/or CVA16, the at least one sulfonated azo food dye is E151 Brilliant Black BN.