

8 July 2021

Andy Hooley

By email: [fyi-request-15598-db287fac@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-15598-db287fac@requests.fyi.org.nz)  
Ref: H202106587

Tēnā koe Andy

### Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) to the Ministry of Health (the Ministry) on 28 May 2021 for information related to the COVID-19 vaccine. Please find a response to each part of your request below.

*"How long does the vaccine protect you for? What is the length of time a mRNA vaccine is active for?"*

It is unknown how long the Cominarty vaccine provides protection. The mRNA vaccine breaks down within two weeks of being administered and it generates an immune response that provides longer lasting protection to those vaccinated. Further information about mRNA vaccines is available at: [www.medsafe.govt.nz/COVID-19/mRNA-vaccines.asp](http://www.medsafe.govt.nz/COVID-19/mRNA-vaccines.asp).

*"If a pregnant lady takes the vaccine will any component of the vaccine come through into the breast milk? What component will that be and what will be the effect on the growing baby?"*

The Ministry does not have any information to suggest that any component of the vaccine would be present in breastmilk.

*"If a pregnant lady takes the vaccine, what information and evidence do you have on how the baby will be affected?"*

The latest information in relation to any effects of the COVID-19 vaccine on pregnancy is available online at: [pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/33882218/](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/33882218/).

*"Does the mRNA vaccine from Pfizer affect fertility in either men or women and what evidence do you have to support this?"*

*If a person has had a immunological issue with other vaccines, what are the risks for another adverse reaction with this vaccine?"*

*What evidence do you have that the vaccine is safe to use with other medications?"*

These parts of your request are refused under section 18(g) of the Act as the Ministry does not hold information specific to what you are requesting.

I trust this information fulfils your request. Under section 28(3) of the Act you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review any decisions made under this request. The Ombudsman may be contacted by email at: [info@ombudsman.parliament.nz](mailto:info@ombudsman.parliament.nz) or by calling 0800 802 602.

Please note that this response, with your personal details removed, may be published on the Ministry website at: [www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/information-releases/responses-official-information-act-requests](http://www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/information-releases/responses-official-information-act-requests).

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joanne Gibbs". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Joanne Gibbs

**National Director**

**COVID-19 Vaccine and Immunisation Programme, Ministry of Health**