

11 August 2021

Felix Lee

By email: fyi-request-16095-47af6642@requests.fyi.org.nz  
Ref: H202108604

Tēnā koe Felix

### **Response to your request for official information**

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) on 16 July 2021 regarding COVID-19 vaccine usage.

I will respond to each part of your request in turn.

#### *1. What percentage of COVID vaccines arriving in NZ end up being distributed to sites?*

The Ministry of health (the Ministry) predicts that approximately 99.5% of COVID-19 vaccines that arrive in New Zealand are distributed to vaccine sites. This is based on the following assumptions;

- No stock has expired whilst at Ultra Low Temperature -70 degrees Celsius (ULT) whilst in the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Health.
- No stock to date has been deemed unusable because of temperature excursion whilst in the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Health.
- Three (3) individual vials are on record as wasted (dropped, broken in transit etc.) within the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Health from a total vial count of over 250,000
- All vaccines that have landed in New Zealand have been delivered to facilities & sites – minus current stock on hand (46,140 vials) and the three vials mentioned above.

#### *2. The methodology you use to calculate the 99.5% statistic and the assumptions that are made.*

The usage rate is calculated based on the number of doses administered compared to the number of doses distributed. The model is subject to the following assumptions:

- Six doses per vial
- Delivered doses expire on the morning of the fifth day (prior to June 2nd)
- Delivered doses expire on the morning of the 31st day (June 2nd and onwards)
- Doses are delivered to sites the same day they are taken from central storage
- Sites consume the vaccine on a first in first out basis
- All vaccinations are entered to the Covid Immunisation Register within three days of the date administered

I trust this 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 of Health website at: [www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/information-releases](http://www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/information-releases).

Nāku noa, nā



Joanne Gibbs  
**National Director**  
**COVID-19 Vaccine and Immunisation Programme**