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133 Molesworth
Street
PO Box 5013
Wellington 6140
New Zealand
T+64 4 496 2000

Gregory Soar

By email: fyi-request-16603-2f582827@requests.fyi.org.nz
fyi-request-16627-8df8a268@requests.fyi.org.nz
Ref: H202111864

Tēnā koe Gregory

Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your requests under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) to the Ministry of Health (the Ministry) on 2 and 5 September 2021 for information regarding the COVID-19 vaccine. The Ministry has consolidated them and is providing one response.

Each part of your request is responded to below:

How long does the Pfizer vaccine remain safely and effectively useable from production?

Extensive information about shelf life and special precautions for storage of the vaccine can be found in sections 6.3 and 6.4 of the Comirnaty data sheet at:
www.medsafe.govt.nz/profs/Datasheet/c/comirnatyinj.pdf.

Further information about the storage conditions of the vaccine can be found at:
www.medsafe.govt.nz/publications/media/2021/comirnaty-storage-conditions.asp.

*How old was / is the vaccine on the day it arrived in NZ?
How many days is it effective and safe to use from the day it arrived / arrives in New Zealand?*

On average, vaccine stock arriving in New Zealand has around 3.5 months until its 6-month expiry. This may change based on the clarification being sought from Pfizer, as noted above. We have not yet received any stock with the extended 9-month expiry.

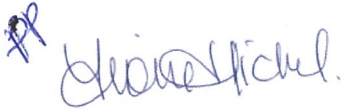
*Are private medical clinics being given or paid any form of incentives including monetary for vaccinating people for covid 19?
The reason for asking is my clinic says they are not permitted to see me in person until level 2 and that they are very busy.*

On 22 September 2021, the Ministry contacted you to clarify what you mean by *private medical clinics*. We did not receive a response from you. General practice clinics that provide primary care are paid to deliver the COVID-19 vaccine. They are not offered additional incentives. General practice clinics are funded in one of two ways, either through an individual contract with their district health board or they are paid-per-dose. Paid-per-dose is the most common funding method.

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 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.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jo Gibbs".

Jo Gibbs
National Director
COVID-19 Vaccine and Immunisation Programme