

15 October 2021

Cat Pause

By email: fyi-request-16907-15497074@requests.fyi.org.nz
Ref: H202113320

Tēnā koe Cat

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 27 September 2021 regarding vaccination needle sizes. Please find a response to each part of your request below.

"What size needles are currently being used to vaccinate fat and super fat people in New Zealand. An earlier FOI response to Joanna McLeod (18.5.21) shared that the "supply of needle is the LDS 25G 25mm needle. There is also an option for a standard 21G 38mm needle for those with larger arms. I have been alerted by a fat person in NZ that their clinic told them that there are no 38mm needles left in the country to use for vaccinations. Please respond to this claim.

Currently there are 1.6 million of the 21gx38mm needles in stock with a further supply of 3.8 million 23gx38mm needles arriving through October and November 2021.

You may find further information on needle gauge and length on the Ministry's website here: www.health.govt.nz/our-work/immunisation-handbook-2020/2-processes-safe-immunisation.

"Also, is the Shot Bro bus (and other vaccination buses) being stocked with 38mm needles prepared for vaccination of "larger arms" (to use your words)?"

The Ministry has contacted the Northern Region Health Co-ordination Centre (NRHCC), which has confirmed the Shot Bro vaccination bus and others are being stocked with the 38mm needles and are able to acquire more if needed.

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 of Health website at: www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/information-releases.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jo Gibbs', written in a cursive style.

Jo Gibbs
National Director
COVID-19 Vaccine and Immunisation Programme