

10 January 2022

Chris Auld

By email: fyi-request-17435-857b87ed@requests.fyi.org.nz
Ref: H202115435

Tēnā koe Chris

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 3 November 2021 for:

- “1. *All documentation relating to the processes and procedures for managing persons isolated at home under the ‘Overseas Arrivals At Home MIQ trial’ currently underway. Please ensure this includes, but is not limited to, the documentation of processes and procedures for;*
 - a. *The assessment of individual risk-factors for compliance with the requirements of at home isolation. Please ensure that you include details as to whether assessment inquires as to criminal convictions or membership of a gang (as gang is defined in s2 of the Prohibition of Gang Insignia in Government Premises Act 2013)*
 - b. *Testing for Covid-19 including how samples are to be collected.*
 - c. *Monitoring for health symptoms including any diagnostic instruments such as thermometers provided to isolated persons.*
 - d. *Monitoring for ‘stay home’ compliance including any technology used to support this.*
 - e. *Monitoring for ‘no visitors’ compliance including any technology used to support this*
 - f. *Procedures to be followed if an isolated person tests positive for Covid-19 including how they are evaluated against the criteria for quarantining at home as a positive case.*

2. *All documentation relating to the processes and procedures for persons who have tested positive for Covid-19 and who are quarantined at home. Please ensure this includes, but is not limited to, the documentation of processes and procedures for;*
 - a. *How individuals The assessment of individual and/or group risk-factors for compliance with at home quarantine. Please ensure that you include details as to whether assessment inquires as to criminal convictions or membership of a gang (as gang is defined in s2 of the Prohibition of Gang Insignia in Government Premises Act 2013)*
 - b. *Determining whether an individual or group is to be quarantined qualifies for at home quarantine or will be moved to an MIQ facility*
 - c. *Testing for Covid-19 including how samples are to be collected.*
 - d. *Monitoring for health symptoms including any diagnostic instruments such as thermometers provided to isolated persons.*
 - e. *Monitoring for ‘stay home’ compliance including any technology used to support this.*

- f. *Monitoring for 'no visitors' compliance including any technology used to support this*
- g. *Determining that an individual or group is to be moved to an MIQ facility based on any change in health status or non-compliance with the requirements of at home quarantine"*

I have been advised that parts 1a, 1d, and 1e of your request are held by the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE). I understand that you have also directed your request to MBIE. Please refer to their response for information regarding these parts of your request.

Furthermore, I have been advised that parts 2a, 2b, 2d, 2e, and 2f of your request are managed at the district health board (DHB)/public health unit (PHU) level. This information is held by the Auckland Regional Public Health Service (ARPHS) and the Northern Region Health Coordination Centre (NRHCC). I understand that you have also directed your request to the Auckland DHBs. The DHBs have advised that Auckland DHB will respond with information held by ARPHS and NRHCC. Please refer to their response for information regarding these parts of your request.

I will respond to the remaining parts of your request in turn.

1. *All documentation relating to the processes and procedures for managing persons isolated at home under the 'Overseas Arrivals At Home MIQ trial' currently underway. Please ensure this includes, but is not limited to, the documentation of processes and procedures for;*
 - b. *Testing for Covid-19 including how samples are to be collected.*
 - c. *Monitoring for health symptoms including any diagnostic instruments such as thermometers provided to isolated persons.*
 - f. *Procedures to be followed if an isolated person tests positive for Covid-19 including how they are evaluated against the criteria for quarantining at home as a positive case.*

Information within scope of this part of your request is itemised in Appendix 1 of this letter and copies of the documents are enclosed. The table in Appendix 1 outlines the grounds under which I have decided to withhold information. Where information is withheld, this is noted in the document itself.

Please note that MBIE is the lead agency for the self-isolation trial and as such the majority of information regarding your request will be supplied by MBIE.

2. *All documentation relating to the processes and procedures for persons who have tested positive for Covid-19 and who are quarantined at home. Please ensure this includes, but is not limited to, the documentation of processes and procedures for;*
 - c. *Testing for Covid-19 including how samples are to be collected.*
 - g. *Determining that an individual or group is to be moved to an MIQ facility based on any change in health status or non-compliance with the requirements of at home quarantine*

The information you have requested is covered by the *Managing COVID-19 Care in the Community* operating framework. This is published on our website: www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-information-health-professionals/caring-people-covid-19-community.

Please note that individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19 and are isolating at home will not be tested again as the test is a diagnostic tool. Information on when individuals are permitted to leave home isolation is available under "Case Isolation Requirements" at:

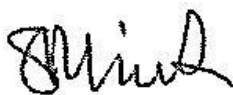
www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-information-health-professionals/case-definition-and-clinical-testing-guidelines-covid-19.

Please note also that the Ministry does not have a standard protocol for when a person who is self-isolating is suspected to have breached the conditions of home isolation. Each case managed in the community is different, and the solution to non-compliance varies accordingly. Risk will determine the specific escalation pathway.

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



Shona Meyrick
Group Manager, COVID-19 Border and Managed Isolation
COVID-19 Health System Response

Appendix 1: Documentation relating to processes and procedures for the MBIE Self-Isolation Pilot

#	Date	Title	Decision on release
1	NA	Self-Isolation Pilot: Standard Operating Procedure	Released with some information withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act, to protect the privacy of natural persons.
2		Self-Isolation Pilot: Standard Operating Procedure (for Healthline)	
3		Daily Health Check Survey Questions	Released in full.
4	28 November 2021	Email: Testing Instructions and Information during isolation for AUCKLAND participants	Released with some information withheld under section 9(2)(a).
5	4 November 2021	<i>Attachment: LolliSponge – instructions 4 Nov</i>	Released in full.
6	28 November 2021	Email: Testing Instructions and Information during isolation for CHRISTCHURCH participants	Released with some information withheld under section 9(2)(a).
7	NA	Self-isolation project: Instructions for saliva collection	