

7 March 2022

Erika Whittome

By email: fyi-request-18028-55725038@requests.fyi.org.nz
Ref: H202200108

Tēnā koe Erika

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 22 and 25 December 2021, clarified on 2 February 2022, for information regarding COVID-19 vaccination. I will respond to each part of your request in turn.

The Ministry is reporting COVID-19 vaccination rates by DHB. How is this data being collected and reported?

Vaccination figures are drawn from records entered into the COVID Immunisation Register (CIR). Information about the CIR is available at: www.health.govt.nz/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-vaccines/covid-19-vaccine-and-your-privacy/covid-immunisation-register-cir-privacy-statement.

The District Health Board recorded for each vaccination is based on the primary address recorded against each individual's national health index number (NHI).

There are several different DHBs each with their own patient management system. General Practitioners also have their own patient management systems and there is no "one source of truth" for all New Zealand patients. There is a COVID-19 vaccine record system which captures doses given. How are the unvaccinated numbers assessed please?

For example, if a person has not been to the doctor in say 5 years, how do you know which DHB this person resides in?

If a person has not been to a DHB provided service in 5 say years (a hospital or xray clinic), how do you have a COVID-19 vaccination record of this person?

Are you collating unvaccinated data from the thousands of doctors and their patient management systems?

When a patient has not been to their GP for 3 years, the person becomes unregistered with that GP. How do you count such a patient in your COVID-19 vaccination percentage rates?

Vaccine uptake rates are calculated using health system user (HSU) based population estimates. Detailed information on the benefits and limitations of this method of reporting are included in the spreadsheet of COVID-19 vaccination data published on the Ministry website under the heading "Details of vaccination data" at: www.health.govt.nz/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-data-and-statistics/covid-19-vaccine-data. Please refer to the sheet labelled "HSU population."

I would like to see the incident of cardiology ward hospital events for the 2021 year by month for each DHB up to and including Dec 2021 .

I would also like to know the number of these same events annually for the last 10 years.

This includes people presenting themselves at the hospital for heart attack, stroke, myocarditis and pericarditis.

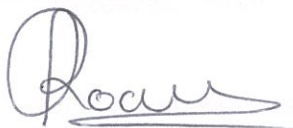
Information on publicly funded hospital discharges that were reported to the Ministry of Health with a primary diagnosis that was related to cardiovascular disease is attached as Appendix 1 and Appendix 2. Please note the following regarding these data:

- Events were identified using publicly funded hospital discharges categorised for the following primary diagnoses: chronic rheumatic heart diseases, ischaemic heart diseases, pulmonary heart disease and diseases of pulmonary circulation, or other forms of heart disease.
- Data from the 2019/2020 financial year onwards (i.e., after 30 June 2019) are provisional, and not yet finalised.
- Counts are of discharges, not individuals. People hospitalised multiple times, for example through transfers, readmissions, or multiple incidents, are counted each time.
- This data captures publicly funded hospitalisations only, as private hospitalisations data is not yet available for 2020 or 2021.

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



Astrid Koornneef
Director
National Immunisation Programme