

Maxwell

By email: fyi-request-18222-3bfaea37@requests.fyi.org.nz
Ref: H202200386

Tēnā koe Maxwell

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 18 January 2022 for information relating to the population of New Zealand that is eligible for COVID-19 vaccines. You specifically requested:

“Can you please confirm how the terminology “eligible population” is defined and calculated in the context of New Zealand’s COVID-19 Vaccine and Immunisation Programme?”

Within the context of the COVID-19 Vaccine and Immunology Programme, the eligible population is currently defined as anyone over 5 years old in New Zealand. Calculations in relation to the eligible population are based on Health Service User (HSU) population data.

The HSU population estimate provides information about the number of people in New Zealand who used health services in the 2020 calendar year. Where percentage uptake figures are reported for COVID-19 vaccinations, the denominator used is drawn from the HSU population estimate. The HSU dataset allows for vaccine coverage rates to be reported by ethnicity while ensuring the numerator and denominator are consistent.

The HSU population estimate was generated from data on 5 July 2021.

Vaccine coverage is measured in New Zealand using three key datasets: the COVID-19 Immunisation Register (CIR), the HSU population, and the National Health Index (NHI).

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 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



Astrid Koornneef
Director
National Immunisation Programme