



15 August 2022

Mark Shelly

By email: fyi-request-19415-cd941683@requests.fyi.org.nz

Ref: H202206707

Tēnā koe Mark

Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) to Manatū Hauora (the Ministry of Health) on 20 May 2022 for information regarding COVID-19 deaths and hospitalisations. Each part of your request is responded to below.

- 1. What number of total deaths in any category would be great enough for the Ministry to Please give vaccination status breakdown (unvaccinated, one shot, two shots, boosted, unknown) across the total number of deaths where Covid-19 has been officially recorded as the underlying cause.*
- 2. What number of deaths in any category would be great enough for the MoH to provide a vaccination status breakdown without being concerned that the data may potentially harm patient's privacy?*

To avoid revealing sensitive information about potentially identifiable individuals in our data, we apply two data confidentiality methods, perturbation and suppression, to any data that is not already released as exact counts on the Ministry's website.

Perturbation is the adding of random noise to data and suppression is not providing data, where doing so could compromise confidentiality.

For data that is not already provided exactly on the website:

- All values between 1 and 5 are suppressed (represented by '.s').
- Zero values are provided exactly, except for in sensitive categories where a zero value may be suppressed to protect other low values.
- Values of 6 and above are perturbed using fixed random rounding to base 3 (FRR3).

FRR3 entails rounding values to neighbouring multiples of 3. For example, 11 may be rounded to 12 or 9.

FRR3 is a best-practice confidentiality method recommended by Stats NZ. More information is available at: www.data.govt.nz/toolkit/privacy-and-security/understanding-data-confidentiality/data-confidentiality-principles-and-methods-report/.

- 3. Please provide the vaccination status data for each age category where the number of deaths exceeds the threshold asked for in question 2 above.*

Please refer to the table overleaf.

Age group	No doses received prior to being reported as a case	Partially vaccinated	Fully vaccinated at least 7 days before reported as a case	Received booster at least 7 days before being reported as a case	Total
0 to 59	18	.s	12	12	45
60 to 69	18	.s	18	33	72
70 to 79	33	.s	39	108	183
80 to 89	48	9	57	237	348
90+	48	9	30	219	306
Total	168	27	156	606	957

4. What was the average age at time of death for each age group?

Please refer to the table below.

Age group	Average age at time of death
0 to 59	51
60 to 69	65
70 to 79	75
80 to 89	85
90+	94

5. What was the average age at time of death for the total number of deaths to date for which Covid-19 has been identified as the underlying cause?

83 years old.

6. How many of those who have died and for which Covid-19 has been identified as the underlying cause were admitted to ICU prior to dying? How many of these were admitted to ICU because of Covid-19 symptoms and not for other reasons? Please provide this data broken down into age groups if possible.

39 people were admitted to ICU, 36 of these were admitted for COVID-19 symptoms. A breakdown by age groups is withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act.

7. For deaths where Covid-19 was identified as the underlying cause, how many occurred in each calendar month (from March 2020 until now)?

Please refer to the table overleaf.

Month starting	Count
1 March 2020	.s
1 April 2020	18
1 May 2020	.s
1 September 2020	.s
1 February 2021	.s
1 September 2021	.s
1 October 2021	.s
1 November 2021	6
1 December 2021	.s
1 January 2022	.s
1 February 2022	12
1 March 2022	180
1 April 2022	180
1 May 2022	138
1 June 2022	159
1 July 2022	246
Total	957

8. Covid Symptoms: For each age group, how many of those admitted to ICU were admitted because of Covid-19 symptoms and not for some other reason?

The information requested in this part of your request is publicly available on our website. Please refer to the data at: www.health.govt.nz/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-data-and-statistics/covid-19-case-demographics. Only cases admitted to ICU because of COVID-19 symptoms are included in this data.

9. How many people within each age group that were admitted to ICU because of Covid-19 symptoms, subsequently died with Covid recorded as the underlying cause of death?

Please refer to the response to part 6 of your request.

10. Of those that were admitted to ICU and subsequently died, for how many in each age group was Covid-19 the underlying cause?

Please refer to the table below.

Age group	Contributory/Not COVID/Not available	Underlying	Total
0 to 59	12	18	27
60 to 69	.s	15	18
70 to 79	6	6	12
80 to 89	.s	.s	.s
Total	27	36	63

11. Of those admitted to ICU, what was the vaccination status at time of being admitted?

- How many people in each group were unvaccinated at the time of admittance.
- How many people in each group had received one shot prior to admittance.
- How many people in each group had received two shots prior to admittance.
- How many people in each group had received two shots plus prior to admittance.

This part of your request is refused under section 18(g) of the Act, as the information is not held by Manatū Hauora. Vaccination status at the time of admission cannot be calculated as information about the time someone was admitted to ICU is not held by Manatū Hauora.

Information about vaccination status at the time someone tested positive for COVID-19 for all people who were admitted to ICU is available at: www.health.govt.nz/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-data-and-statistics/covid-19-case-demographics.

12. When did they get admitted?

As stated previously, time of admission to ICU is not held by Manatū Hauora. Manatū Hauora only holds information about whether someone was admitted to ICU, and the date they were admitted to hospital in general.

13. How many people in each age group were in hospital and in ICU in any given month (list months in which people in the table were in hospital and in ICU and advise how many people in each age group were in hospital with Covid in each of those months and how many of those were in in ICU).

Please refer to the tables below and overleaf.

COVID-19 case hospital admissions by month starting	Count
1 February 2020	.s
1 March 2020	24
1 April 2020	24
1 May 2020	.s
1 June 2020	.s
1 July 2020	.s
1 August 2020	12
1 September 2020	.s
1 January 2021	.s
1 February 2021	.s
1 March 2021	.s
1 June 2021	.s
1 July 2021	.s
1 August 2021	30
1 September 2021	36
1 October 2021	141
1 November 2021	231
1 December 2021	93
1 January 2022	45
1 February 2022	930
1 March 2022	2790
1 April 2022	1557
1 May 2022	1506
1 June 2022	1461
1 July 2022	1728
Total	10620

COVID-19 case ICU admissions by month starting	Count
1 March 2020	.s
1 April 2020	.s
1 May 2020	.s
1 July 2020	.s
1 August 2020	.s
1 September 2020	.s
1 August 2021	9
1 September 2021	.s
1 October 2021	9
1 November 2021	21
1 December 2021	9
1 January 2022	.s
1 February 2022	21
1 March 2022	87
1 April 2022	54
1 May 2022	51
1 June 2022	36
1 July 2022	48
Total	369

Please accept our apologies for the delay in responding to 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.

Nāku noa, nā



Gill Hall
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