

6 April 2023

AI

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Tēnā koe AI

**Your request for Official information, reference: HNZ00014309**

Thank you for your email on 20 March 2023, asking for the following which has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). You have specifically requested:

*“Could i please know how many of the following contact types that were in use during Covid resulted in positive cases?”*

*These are the contact classifications i've found:*

- *Close contact*
- *Household contact*
- *Close plus*
- *Casual contact*
- *Casual plus contact*
- *Secondary contact*

*Against each contact classification i'd like to know for both 2020 and 2021 and 2022 if it exists:*

- *By year how many were identified in total (a raw number)*
- *By year how many of these contacts identified actually became a case.”*

To create a link between a case and an earlier contact record for a person we rely on, both the contact record and the case record needing to have a National Health Index (NHI) number entered. However, contact records frequently did not have this information recorded as it depends on what phase the response was at. For example, contact tracing of close contacts was always prioritised over casual contacts, which may have led to less casual contacts having their NHI details entered at the time they were identified. If this casual contact later became a case, we may not be able to link them back to their earlier casual contact record.

The introduction of the online case self-service tool in February 2022 has led to less contact records having NHI numbers due to a reliance on user input of information, which is not always sufficiently complete to allow an NHI match to occur.

It is important to note that while a contact may have had a subsequent case record created within 20 days of that exposure, there is no way to determine that it was that exposure that resulted in their COVID-19 infection.

The table below gives the count of contacts as created in the National Contact Tracing Solution (NCTS) per year by contact type. It also provides a count of those contacts who had a COVID-19 case record created in NCTS within 20 days of their exposure as a contact. Data is for the period 17 August 2020 to 15 March 2023. This is for community cases and contacts only and excludes cases and contacts which entered through border events.

		Close contact	Close Plus contact	Casual contact	Casual Plus contact	Household contact
2020	Contacts created	2,988	0	2,543	0	0
	Contacts with a case record within 20 days	226	0	10	0	0
2021	Contacts created	61,742	1,191	7,487	7,006	13,596
	Contacts with a case record within 20 days	1,312	179	15	34	5,207
2022	Contacts created	49,311	161	2,540	320	2,096,891
	Contacts with a case record within 20 days	3,783	19	14	<5	343,238
2023	Contacts created	0	0	0	0	107,143
	Contacts with a case record within 20 days	0	0	0	0	10,285

### How to get in touch

If you have any questions, you can contact us at [hnzOIA@health.govt.nz](mailto:hnzOIA@health.govt.nz).

If you are not happy with this response, you have the right to make a complaint to the Ombudsman. Information about how to do this is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or by phoning 0800 802 602.

As this information may be of interest to other members of the public, Te Whatu Ora may proactively release a copy of this response on our website. All requester data, including your name and contact details, will be removed prior to release.

Nāku iti noa, nā



Matt Hannant

**Interim Director Outbreak Response  
National Public Health Service**