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17 July 2023

Chris McQuoid

Email: fyi-request-23127-fa189a28@requests.fyi.org.nz
Ref: H2023027039

Tēnā koe Chris

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 14 June 2023. You requested:

“I would like to know what if any rewards, incentives, grants reimbursements are offered to gp practices giving the flu and the bivalent covid vaccine.

In addition to this I request any information on the possibility of those being passed from the practice on to the individual employees of that practice in the form of targets or meeting a target number or of individual bonuses I seek this part of information specifically in relation to Three Kings Family Medical Center.

As advised on 28 June 2023 this part of your request is more closely connected to the functions of Te Whatu Ora – Health New Zealand and as such was transferred to their agency under section 14(b)(ii) of the Act. You can expect a response to this part of your request from Te Whatu Ora in due course.

Lastly, I ask for any research that may have informed MOH on administering bivalent and flu vaccines at the same time. In regard to iatrogenic reactions or any other proof of safety and efficacy.”

Data on co-administration of the influenza vaccine and other vaccinations can be found in the Immunisation Handbook <https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/immunisation-handbook-2020/11-influenza>. Furthermore, Medsafe continually reviews all vaccines approved for use in New Zealand and takes appropriate action if any risks are identified, as outlined here: <https://www.medsafe.govt.nz/Consumers/Safety-of-Medicines/Vaccine-safety.asp>

More information on the evidence supporting CV TAG’s recommendations regarding Pfizer’s bivalent booster can be found here: <https://www.tewhatauora.govt.nz/assets/About-us/Who-we-are/Expert-groups/COVID-19-Vaccine-Technical-Advisory-Group-CV-TAG/Decision-to-use-Pfizers-bivalent-BA.4-5-vaccine.-COVID-19-Vaccine-Technical.pdf>

More information on recommended guidelines regarding coadministration of COVID-19 and influenza vaccines can be found here: www.immune.org.nz/vaccine/influenza-vaccine

The evidence continues to be reviewed and updated as it emerges.

I trust this information fulfils your request. If you wish to discuss any aspect of your request with us, including this decision, please feel free to contact the OIA Services Team on: oiagr@health.govt.nz.

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 Manatū Hauora website at: www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/information-releases/responses-official-information-act-requests.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ross Bell', is positioned above the typed name and title.

Ross Bell
Acting Deputy Director-General
Public Health Agency | Te Pou Hauora Tūmatanui