

19 September 2023

Daniel Richards
Via email: fyi-request-24148-41c9ed83@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe Daniel

Request for information: Availability of COVID-19 XBB Vaccines

Thank you for your request dated 15 September 2023 under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) for information relating to COVID-19 vaccinations. You requested:

*Moderna, Pfizer, and Novavax have released COVID19 vaccines targeting the XBB variants, see the FDA release: <https://www.fda.gov/vaccines-blood-biologics/updated-covid-19-vaccines-use-united-states-beginning-fall-2023>
Will New Zealand be getting any of the above XBB variant vaccines?
If so, when?
If so, what will the eligibility criteria be?*

We have received this request through the FYI website, as an OIA. However, it's not clear what documents you are seeking, however, we have considered whether we hold any information that could be considered in scope. We have determined that we don't hold any documents of a relevant nature to your enquiry. Therefore, we are declining your request under section 18(g) of the Official Information Act, as Pharmac does not hold any relevant information.

In general, Pharmac's approach to funding new COVID-19 vaccines will be to consider international recommendations on the antigen composition of COVID-19 vaccines and the vaccines that have Medsafe approval. We understand that Medsafe expects applications from Pfizer and other suppliers for updated variant vaccines soon.

We trust that this information answers your queries. Please note, you have the right to make a complaint to the Ombudsman about our response to your OIA, under section 28(3) of the OIA. Details of [how to make a complaint](#) are on the Ombudsman's website.

Nāku noa, nā



Allanah Andrews
Manager, Policy and Government Services