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Erika Whittome

By email: [fyi-request-24498-e8b6de07@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-24498-e8b6de07@requests.fyi.org.nz)  
Ref: H2023032538

Tēnā koe Erika

### 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 22 October 2023 for information regarding COVID-19. You requested:

*“What is the infection fatality rate and the case fatality rate (CFR) for Covid-19?  
For example:  
Legionnaires' disease has a CFR of about 15%.  
The Bubonic plague in Europe resulted in the death of 30% to 90% of those infected  
Ebola virus disease, has a CFR as high as 90%.”*

From 1 January to 26 August 2022, the case fatality risk (CFR); that is the proportion of individuals who die among those who have been diagnosed for COVID-19 was 107.0 per 100,000 *reported* cases. Please note that in Aotearoa New Zealand, not all diagnoses may have been counted due to self-reporting of rapid antigen test results. This would mean that the true CFR may be somewhat lower than reported.

The most recent information on CFR for COVID-19 in Aotearoa New Zealand is publicly available here: [https://www.health.govt.nz/system/files/documents/publications/covid-19\\_mortality\\_in\\_aotearoa\\_inequities\\_in\\_risk\\_september\\_2022\\_29\\_sept.v2.pdf](https://www.health.govt.nz/system/files/documents/publications/covid-19_mortality_in_aotearoa_inequities_in_risk_september_2022_29_sept.v2.pdf)

The infection fatality risk (IFR), that is the proportion of individuals who die among those who have been infected with COVID-19 (not just diagnosed/reported), is not available in Aotearoa New Zealand. However, there are some international estimates. The following article summarises some of the work done to generate IFR estimates: [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(21\)02867-1/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(21)02867-1/fulltext).

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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/information-releases/responses-official-information-act-requests).

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. Karageorge'.

Louise Karageorge  
**Group Manager, Intelligence, Surveillance and Knowledge**  
**Public Health Agency | Te Pou Hauora Tūmatanui**