

8 April 2024

Ryan

fyi-request-25121-57ec5fbc@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe Ryan,

Your request for official information, reference: HNZ00034388

Thank you for your email on 12 December 2023, asking Health New Zealand | Te Whatu Ora information about COVID-19 vaccine under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). You will receive two response letters to your questions, as your request requires information across two distinct directorates within Health New Zealand | Te Whatu Ora. Please find the Prevention Directorate response to questions 2, 3, 6 and 7 of your request below.

2. Please provide information to clarify the cumulative total injected with Dose 1 as there is discrepancy between the 4,350,651 injected as stated in the above mentioned Medsafe report #46 and the Te Whatu Ora current published statistics as at Friday 1st December 2023 being 4,032,197 which indicates 318,454 doses less than stated in the Medsafe total published a year earlier - please clarify which record is correct with statistics quoted from [COVID-19 vaccine data – Health New Zealand | Te Whatu Ora](#)

3. Medsafe report #46 states 4,185,404 were injected with Dose 2 by 30th September 2022 but Te Whatu Ora says cumulative total for Dose 2 is just 3,985,395 up to & including 1st December 2023 creating a shortfall in latest data of 200,009 - please clarify which record is correct and the reasons for discrepancy.

There are several reasons for the difference in the cumulative counts of vaccination data from Medsafe report #46 and the vaccination data available on the Te Whatu Ora website.

These include:

- Different age groupings used for Medsafe report #46 and the Te Whatu Ora website. The Medsafe report includes age groups 0-9 and 10-19 in the cumulative total of administered doses, this age range would include individuals who received paediatric dose 1 and dose 2 vaccinations. The data on the Te Whatu Ora website separates individuals who received their paediatric doses from those in the older age groups who received their first doses of the COVID-19 vaccine.
- The current Health New Zealand | Te Whatu Ora website uses vaccination data that has been entered into the Aotearoa Immunisation Register (AIR). The AIR is a new immunisation register which had to migrate vaccination records from the COVID-19 Immunisation Register (CIR) and the National Immunisation Register (NIR). While many records have been migrated, this process is not complete.
- Additionally, a benefit of the new AIR immunisation register is a more robust validation of data. The data in the Medsafe report #46 came from the CIR. In the CIR, vaccination appointments could potentially be recorded as vaccination events, even if the individual was unable to make the appointment or did not complete their vaccination. More robust data validation could contribute to the discrepancy seen between the two sources.

Differences in age grouping, more robust data validation within data systems, and migration of data between immunisation registers can all result in different total administered doses being displayed. The information provided in Medsafe report #46 is a snapshot of the data at the time of extraction and will not be updated.

Health New Zealand | Te Whatu Ora will continue to update information on the website and should be used in the future when looking for immunisation information

6. Please provide information on how many sought and how many received vaccine exemptions based on adverse events to Dose 1 and also provide any and all findings into the health outcomes for this cohort who clearly started the treatment but for some reason did not take the second dose which was an accepted follow up for anyone taking the first dose.

	Total complete applications received	Granted	Declined
Old criteria			
1b Serious adverse event to previous dose	302	58	244
2a Anaphylaxis to the first dose of the vaccine or known severe allergy to the excipients of the vaccine	125	11	114
2b Myocarditis/pericarditis following the first dose of the vaccine	119	43	76
New Criteria			
2a Significant adverse reaction to previous dose	215	48	167

Health New Zealand | Te Whatu Ora does not hold information on findings into the health outcomes from those applications. Therefore, as the information is not held by us and we do not believe the information is held by another agency, we are refusing this part of the request under section 18(g)(i) of the Act.

7. Please provide information showing how many covid vaccine exemptions were applied for, and how many were granted to individual persons acting as PCBU as a cumulative total & the date range in which they were provided.

Health New Zealand | Te Whatu Ora does not hold information on whether an exemption application was received from individuals acting as PCBU. Therefore, as the information is not held by us and we do not believe the information is held by another agency, we are refusing this part of the request under section 18(g)(i) of the Act.

How to get in touch

If you have any questions, you can contact us at hnzOIA@tewhatauora.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 or by phoning 0800 802 602.

As this information may be of interest to other members of the public, Health New Zealand | 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



Alana Ewe-Snow

Director, Prevention

National Public Health Service

TeWhatuOra.govt.nz

Health NZ, PO Box 793,
Wellington 6140, New Zealand

Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa
New Zealand Government