

133 Molesworth Street
PO Box 5013
Wellington 6140
New Zealand
T+64 4 496 2000

12 February 2024

ASE

By email: fyi-request-25305-94f246ea@requests.fyi.org.nz

Ref: H2023034647

Tēnā koe ASE

Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) to the Ministry of Health - Manatū Hauora (the Ministry) on 28 December 2023 for information regarding COVID-19 vaccines and reinfection. You requested:

"I am seeking all information and data held by The Ministry of Health relating to correlations between COVID "vaccines" and COVID reinfection. In particular, I am seeking information and data that compares/contrasts COVID reinfection rates to numbers of COVID "vaccines".

eg, I am seeking information and data that quantifiably demonstrates, using real-world data (not modeled data) any correlation (or inverse correlation) between COVID-19 "vaccines" and COVID reinfection, such that a risk of COVID reinfection is (or is not) correlated to how many COVID "vaccines" a person has had.

If this data has not been compiled by The Ministry of Health, please explain why; and, please provide data from which this analysis can be performed.

For clarification, this request includes all information pertaining to the above requests which is, intentionally or otherwise, not being held by The Ministry of Health."

Your request has been refused under section 18(g)(i) of the Act as the requested correlation of COVID reinfection rates to numbers of COVID vaccines is not held by the Ministry and there are no grounds for believing it is held by another agency subject to the Act.

The Ministry has not performed this analysis as there is an under-reporting of COVID-19 infections, as many people do not test or report their test result, and this is information that would be required in order to perform the analysis. This data gap is evident when comparing the level of SARS-CoV-2 virus detected in the wastewater with trends in reported cases.

The characteristics of people with infection who test and report their results are also potentially different to the characteristics of those who are infected but do not test or report their results (a type of bias). Therefore, any analysis of re-infection, including in relation to vaccination, would not provide reliable insights.

Data and analyses that are relevant to your request are as follows:

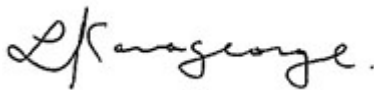
- COVID-19 data and statistics, including case numbers, reinfections and booster numbers, can be found here: covid19.govt.nz/news-and-data/covid-19-data-and-statistics/
- Additional information and data on infection numbers and vaccination rates can be found here:
www.tewhatauora.govt.nz/our-health-system/data-and-statistics/covid-vaccine-data/
www.tewhatauora.govt.nz/our-health-system/data-and-statistics/covid-19-data/covid-19-current-cases/
- A report on inequities in mortality, which considered determinants (including vaccination) can be found here:
[COVID-19 Mortality in Aotearoa New Zealand: Inequities in Risk | Ministry of Health NZ](#)

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



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