



5 March 2024

Erika Whittome

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Kia ora Erika

**Your Official Information Act request, reference: GOV-030649**

Thank you for your request of 26 January 2024, to Health New Zealand, asking for the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

*Have the DHBs compensated any employees or paid any benefits for "long term Covid" or for any "Covid-19 illnesses" or for paid any long term benefits to your workers for covid-19 under this Accredited Employers program from ACC? If so, how many staff please for each category?*

On 21 February 2024, your request was transferred to ACC under section 14(b)(ii) of the Act.

**The presentation of the symptoms associated with "long covid" is not a condition that attracts ACC cover**

However, if there is an initial acceptance of cover for COVID-19, and where the client's ongoing symptoms or incapacity are still causally related to COVID-19, then this may attract entitlements on that claim.

**Cover for COVID-19**

ACC provides cover for injuries caused by accidents and does not generally provide cover for illness, except in certain situations. Cover for COVID-19 may be available if a client is diagnosed with the virus and meets the criteria for a work-related gradual process, disease or infection under section 30 of the Accident Compensation Act 2001.

**Data related to cover for COVID-19 at Health New Zealand locations is provided below**

This data was identified by searching the monthly claim files for the 15 Health New Zealand locations using the term 'Coronavirus Infection'. Please note that data is only provided for locations where claims were made and covers the period March 2020 to January 2024. We further note that the data is reported to ACC by Health New Zealand and ACC does not make any representations as to the accuracy of the data.

| Health New Zealand locations                                    | Accepted | Declined |
|---|----------|----------|
| Health New Zealand Hauora a Toi Bay of Plenty                   | <4       | <4       |
| Health New Zealand Waitaha Canterbury                           | 8        | 0        |
| Health New Zealand Capital, Coast and Hutt Valley               | <4       | 0        |
| Health New Zealand Counties Manukau                             | 0        | <4       |
| Health New Zealand Te Matau a Māui Hawke's Bay                  | <4       | 0        |
| Health New Zealand Te Pae Hauora o Ruahine o Taranua MidCentral | 0        | <4       |
| Health New Zealand Waikato                                      | 0        | <4       |

*Some of the values in the table only indicate that the number is fewer than 4 (denoted as <4)*

This limits the potential for particular individuals, or matters specific to certain individuals, from being identified. Withholding in this way is necessary to protect the privacy of these individuals under section

9(2)(a) of the Act. In making this decision, we have considered the public interest in making the information available and have determined that it does not outweigh the need to protect our clients' privacy.

**As this information may be of interest to other members of the public**

ACC may decide to proactively release a copy of this response on ACC's website. All requester data, including your name and contact details, will be removed prior to release. The released response will be made available [www.acc.co.nz/resources/#/category/12](http://www.acc.co.nz/resources/#/category/12).

**If you are not happy with this response**

You can contact the Ombudsman via [info@ombudsman.parliament.nz](mailto:info@ombudsman.parliament.nz) or by phoning 0800 802 602. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz).

Ngā mihi



Christopher Johnston  
**Manager Official Information Act Services**  
Government Engagement