

24 June 2024

Andrew Riddell
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Tēnā koe Andrew,

Your request for official information, reference: HNZ00051027

Thank you for your email on 4 June 2024, asking Health New Zealand | Te Whatu Ora for the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

Public health measures to reduce the risk and spread of covid-19 has included free Rapid Antigen Tests, masks, vaccination, wastewater testing, monitoring and assessing long covid-19 cases, and regular reporting of covid-19 cases.

It is unclear from the Budget 2024 documents whether these ('front line') public health measures are going to continue.

Information about the above question is available online on the Beehive website: [Govt strengthens COVID-19 preparedness | Beehive.govt.nz](https://www.beehive.govt.nz/govt-strengthens-covid-19-preparedness).

Please advise what decisions have been made about continuing to provide free Rapid Antigen Tests, masks, vaccinations, wastewater testing, monitoring and assessing long covid-19 cases, and regular reporting of covid-19 cases.

Please find the attached **Appendix 1** in response to the above question.

Some information is withheld under the following sections of the Act:

- 9(2)(a), to protect the privacy of natural persons; and
- 9(2)(b)(ii), where its release would likely unreasonably prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied the information.

Include copies of the assessments/briefings/reports to the Minister of Health on the future of covid-19 public health measures made this year.

Your request for the above question is transferred to Ministry of Health - Manatū Hauora under section 14(b)(ii) of the Act. You can expect a response from the Ministry of Health in due course.

How to get in touch

If you have any questions, you can contact us at hnzOIA@tewhatuora.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 NZ 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



Danielle Coe

**Manager (OIA) Government Services
Health New Zealand | Te Whatu Ora**

[TeWhatuOra.govt.nz](https://www.tewhatuora.govt.nz)

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Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa
New Zealand Government