

8 March 2024

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Tēnā koe 9(2)(a)

Your request for Official information, reference: HNZ00027826

I am writing regarding the OIA you sent in August 2023 about COVID-19 vaccination, specifically your question *'please outline how disposed doses are dealt with to safely get rid of them including whether they are placed in landfill or any other process or means of disposal utilised'*.

In response we wrote to you on 6 October 2023 explaining that in compliance with the NZS4304:2002 regulations on the management and safe disposal of infectious and contaminated waste, vaccines are disposed of by a waste disposal company. As part of this process, vaccines are tracked to provide a visible audit system from collection to destruction.

I understand you made contact with the office of the Ombudsman seeking further clarity in respect to our response to you, as it did not address your request for information about whether vaccines are placed in landfill or any other process, or whether other means of disposal are utilised. The following provides a more comprehensive answer to your question.

All vaccine packaging and product is reduced to a point that it is non recoverable for any use. It is then steam sterilised before deep burial in a secure landfill, encased in a leak proof container ensuring no risk of soil contamination. No other disposal methods are utilised.

I trust this additional information provides the level of detail you require.

If you have any further questions, please contact us at hnzOIA@health.govt.nz.

If you are not happy with this response, you have the right to make a further complaint to the Ombudsman. Information about how to do this is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or by phoning 0800 802 602.

Nāku iti noa, nā



Alana Ewe-Snow

Director Prevention

National Public Health Service