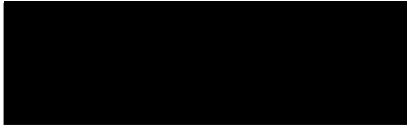




4 May 2020



Re: OIA request – Measles epidemic data and costs

Dear 

Thank you for your Official Information Act request received 27 February seeking information about total costs and admissions from the measles epidemic in 2019 from Waitematā District Health Board (DHB).

Before responding to your specific questions, it may be useful to provide some context about our services.

Waitematā DHB serves a population of more than 630,000 across the North Shore, Waitakere and Rodney areas, the largest and one of the most rapidly growing DHBs in the country. We are the largest employer in the district, employing around 7,500 people across more than 80 different locations.

In addition to providing services to our own population, we are also the metropolitan Auckland provider of forensic psychiatry, child disability services, child community dental services and community alcohol and drug services.

In response to your request, we are able to provide the following information:

I am requesting the following information under the Official Information Act:

- 1. The total cost to the DHB from the measles epidemic, between January 1 and December 31, 2019, broken down by the reasons for the costs**

Please note that the figures provided are from financial data from March 1 to December 31, 2019. There were no measles cases in January 2019 and just one case in February 2019.

Hospitalisation	\$
WIES* (fully costed, includes clinical supplies)	557,566
ED Attendance (use revenue as cost estimate)	31,876
Total	589,442
Other Provider Costs	
Staff costs to manage response*	21,787

Weighted Inlier Equivalent Separation (WIES) is a counting method that is used to measure the work load within a hospital setting for inpatients and the cost of treatment.

Public messaging	1,129
Six nurses sent to Samoa to administer vaccines (estimated cost)	18,800
Clinics to deal with local measles	8,600
Total	50,316
GRAND TOTAL	639,758

*Includes Clinical Lead, Nurse Lead, Primary Care Liaison, Well Child Liaison, Pharmacy Liaison.

2. The total number of measles-related presentations between January 1 and December 31, 2019, broken down by month
3. The total number of measles-related admissions between January 1 and December 31, 2019, broken down by month
4. The total number of measles-related ICU admissions and average bed days in ICU between January 1 and December 31, 2019, broken down by month
5. The total of bed days recorded by the DHB due to measles-related illness, broken down by month.

The measles outbreak began in metro Auckland with the first case on the 22 February 2019. Table 1 provides a breakdown of the number of cases by calendar month for 2019 as context. Auckland Regional Public Health Service (ARPHS) is responsible for public health unit activities across the Auckland metro region which includes Auckland DHB, Waitematā DHB and Counties Manukau DHB.

As the outbreak moved into *manage it* phase, a metro Auckland Incident Management Team (IMT) was established. Table 2 provides the data for questions 2-5 for each of the three metro Auckland DHBs. Please note that this data was generated for a specific requested report, and it has not been updated with December data because of the amount of time required to do so and the resource required to update it while we have been directing resources to the COVID-19 response. The *Hospitalisations and Complications* report released on 1 October 2019 will be updated with all available data after the end of the outbreak is declared.

The data in Table 2 may differ from previous reports as it is presented by DHB-of-service (the hospital facility which provided care) rather than numbers or rates by DHB-of-domicile (where people live). The data for Question 2 is provided as total ED presentations. Please note that this includes all ED presentations, of both under and over three hours duration, that relate to those cases confirmed as having measles (notified cases). ED presentations under three hours are not coded, so there is a small possibility that these ED presentations were not measles-related.

In relation to Question 3, admissions data is provided, please note that this includes patients already counted under ED admissions. For Question 4, the data provided is ICU hours rather than admissions as this better reflects the utilisation of ICU in the outbreak. The actual number of admissions to ICU and bed days (stays of more than 24 hours) is very small. Therefore, data on ICU hours has been provided as this gives a more accurate picture of the ICU resources used. Total bed days and average bed days are provided.

Table 1. Cases of measles in metro Auckland 2019 by month

Month	Measles cases (confirmed / probable)
January	0
February	1
March	11
April	23
May	47
June	67
July	157
August	508
September	547
October	257
November	110
December	27
Total	1,755

Table 2. Ed presentations, admissions, total bed days, total ICU hours and average bed days for measles cases for metro Auckland hospitals between March – November 2019; by DHB of service.

Month	Total ED presentations (with and without admission)	Admissions (also counted under ED presentations)	Total bed days	Total ICU hours	Average bed days per admission
Auckland DHB facilities (Auckland City Hospital and Starship)					
March	3	2	14	35	6.9
April	3	1	3		3.3
May	2	2	7		3.5
June	4	2	3		1.4
July	11	10	48	294	4.8
August	44	30	117	306	3.9
September	73	52	118	219	2.3
October	19	9	36	355	3.9
November	16	6	9		1.5
Total	175	114	355	1,209	3.1
Waitematā DHB facilities (North Shore and Waitakere Hospitals)					
March	4	3	6	-	2.0
April	23	16	59	-	3.7
May	23	14	35	-	2.5
June	16	11	24	-	2.2
July	28	14	23	-	1.6
August	47	26	74	-	2.8
September	36	13	24	116	1.8
October	14	10	23	-	2.3

Month	Total ED presentations (with and without admission)	Admissions (also counted under ED presentations)	Total bed days	Total ICU hours	Average bed days per admission
November	16	11	17	-	1.5
Total	207	118	285	116	2.4
Counties Manukau DHB facilities (Middlemore Hospital)					
March	-	-	-	-	
April	1	1	7	-	7.0
May	4	4	3	-	0.8
June	34	20	40	-	2.0
July	74	45	109	-	2.4
August	227	124	224	136	1.8
September	193	103	209	50	2.0
October	93	56	99	-	1.8
November	41	13	28	-	2.2
Total	667	366	719	186	2.0

I trust that this information is helpful.

Waitematā DHB supports the open disclosure of information to assist community understanding of how we are delivering publicly funded healthcare. This includes the proactive publication of anonymised Official Information Act responses on our website from 10 working days after they have been released.

If you consider there are good reasons why this response should not be made publicly available, we will be happy to consider your views.

Yours sincerely



Dr Karen Bartholomew
Director of Health Outcomes
Waitematā District Health Board