

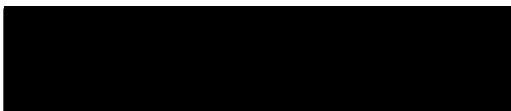


Waitematā
District Health Board
Best Care for Everyone

DHB Board Office

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12 November 2019



Dear [REDACTED]

Re: OIA request – Immunisation status of DHB staff

Thank you for your Official Information Act request received 1 November 2019 seeking information from Waitematā District Health Board (DHB) about the immunisation status of DHB staff having contracted measles.

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 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.

We proactively encourage our staff to ensure they are vaccinated to protect themselves, their patients and the public. We offer MMR and other vaccinations for free to all staff.

You requested the following information:

I wish to know the immunisation status (names redacted of course) of these medical/DHB staff mentioned as having contracted measles.

I note, "At least 20 DHB staff have had measles this year – and at least six of them caught it on the job. Eloise Gibson reports." <https://www.newsroom.co.nz/2019/10/31/886805/hospital-staff-catching-measles-on-the-job#>

How many of these and wider cases of DHB / staff who contracted measles, were vaccinated? How many shots did they receive? How close after vaccines did they contract the measles.

In response to your request, please see the following:

There have been three (3) health workers at Waitematā DHB who have reported as having contracted measles this year. Due to the small number of staff involved, their identities will be known amongst other staff and the local community. Disclosing information regarding their vaccination status would intrude on their privacy. We do not believe the importance of knowing their vaccination status outweighs the importance of protecting their privacy.

Therefore, we are declining the remainder of your request under Section 9(2)(a) of the Official Information Act, to protect the privacy of natural persons.

You have the right to seek an independent review of any of the decisions taken in providing this response by contacting the Office of the Ombudsman via www.ombudsman.parliament.nz.

Waitematā DHB, like other agencies across the state sector, supports the open disclosure of information to assist the public's 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 feel that there are good reasons why your response should not be made publicly available, we will be happy to consider this.

Yours sincerely



Fiona McCarthy
Director Human Resources
Waitematā District Health Board