



20 August 2019



Dear 

Re: Official Information Act request – Vaccination and immunisation rates among health workers

Thank you for your Official Information Act request received 25 July 2019 regarding vaccination and immunisation rates among health workers.

Our responses to your questions are provided below.

- 1. Any information the DHB holds about vaccination/immunization rates for its health workers, including the various rates for midwives, nurses and doctors working for the DHB.**
- 2. Any information the DHB holds about trends in vaccination rates for health workers over the previous decade, and whether any measures have been taken to increase uptake.**
- 3. Any information the DHB holds about vaccination rates for its health workers specifically from Pertussis/Whooping cough, seasonal 'flu and MMR.**

Many of our clinical staff come into regular close contact with a cross-section of the public and this increases the chance of them being exposed to a range of illnesses.

The DHB is proactive in encouraging our staff to ensure they are vaccinated to protect themselves, their patients and the public. We offer a wide range of vaccinations to all staff including Pertussis, Hepatitis, Influenza and MMR. This is a free service which the DHB has been providing to staff.

We have a medical database called Med Tech, which holds medical and vaccination information by individual, not by profession, or department. Med Tech does not have a reporting function. We can only extract individual information from the database, which we then need to correlate to our staff structure which can take several months to complete. The reason it takes several months is that we have to align each staff member to a service structure, remove those who have left and follow up those missing, validate this and then calculate the percentage for a service and then for a disease type to understand total staff vaccination percentages. Because information is held by individual, for vaccination information purposes, we primarily use the database as an individual recall system which enables us to contact staff when they are due for their vaccination booster. Therefore, we do not regularly extract information to view total staff vaccination percentages. Our review of staff vaccination percentages was last completed in July 2017.

We are currently implementing a new health and safety system, Assura, which will enable this information to be more easily accessible and we have scheduled a review of total staff vaccination percentages to be undertaken once our new system is in place early next year.

Over the last couple of years, we have specifically targeted recalls in Pertussis and MMR and we expect these overall vaccination rates to have increased, as well as providing extensive access to the annual Influenza vaccination.

Information on the staff vaccination rates from July 2017 is noted below. Unfortunately, we do not hold vaccination rates by profession but we do hold information collated by vaccination type, which is noted below.

Vaccination type	% of total staff who have had a vaccination as at July 2017
Varicella (Chickenpox)	89%
Rubella	72%
Measles	89%
Hepatitis	90%
Pertussis	52%
Influenza	66%

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 health care. 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 them.

We trust this reply satisfies your request.

Yours sincerely



Fiona McCarthy
Director Human Resources
Waitematā District Health Board