

M P Ross

By email: fyi-request-13913-4a502661@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear M P Ross

Response to your data request

Thank you for your data request to the Ministry of Health (the Ministry) in relation to deaths due to COVID-19 and comorbidity:

Of the 25 people as of 04/10/2020 that have died in New Zealand that tested positive with Covid-19 (SARS-CoV-2), without naming/identifying them (i.e. NO: names, location in New Zealand, gender, age, DHB, culture, race etc), therefore protecting the privacy of the patients under section 9 (2) (A) of the Official Information Act 1982:

- 1.) *How many died specifically due to Covid-19 (SARS-CoV-2) without another contributing issue?*
- 2.) *How many were put on a ventilator at anytime during their treatment?*
- 3.) *How many received palliative care?*
- 4.) *How many had signed/had a "Do Not Resuscitate" (DNR) order in place?*
- 5.) *How many had comorbidity factors from the list below?*

5a) *Asthma*

5b) *Cancer*

5c) *Cerebrovascular disease*

5d) *Chronic kidney disease*

5e) *Cystic fibrosis*

5f) *COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease)*

5g) *Hypertension or high blood pressure*

5h) *Immunocompromised state from solid organ transplant*

5i) *Immunocompromised state from blood or bone marrow transplant, immune deficiencies, HIV, use of corticosteroids, or use of other immune weakening medicines*

5j) *Liver disease*

5k) *Obesity (body mass index [BMI] of 30 or higher)*

5l) *Neurologic conditions, such as dementia*

5m) *Pregnancy*

5n) *Pulmonary fibrosis*

5o) *Serious heart conditions, such as heart failure, coronary artery disease, or cardiomyopathies*

5p) *Sickle cell disease*

5q) *Smoking*

5r) *Thalassemia*

5s) *Type 1 diabetes mellitus*

5t) *Type 2 diabetes mellitus*

- 6.) *How many patients from the previous question had each of the preceding comorbidity factors*

in Questions 5a-5t?

7.) How many patients from the above question had multiple comorbidity factors?

7a.) For the number of patients above, how many comorbidity factors did they have? eg. Patient A: 3, Patient B: 2, Patient C: 4

Please accept the Ministry's apologies for the delay in responding to your request.

Please note that cause of death information takes some time to collate. After the Ministry receives fact of death information, there is a 6-12 month process to assign a cause of death code for most deaths. Any death which requires a coronial inquiry can take two or more years for cause of death to be assigned.

In general, we do not release mortality information until the majority of deaths have been assigned a cause of death. However, we have made an exception for COVID-19 deaths due to the degree of interest in this information, and the completeness of information available for these deaths.

The information you requested is set out below. It is based on the data on underlying conditions collected through the COVID-19 case report form. This report is completed for all cases of COVID-19. Please note that we do not collect information about some of the conditions and risk factors you asked about; we could not include obesity, sickle cell disease, smoking and thalassemia.

- 1.) Eleven people have died due to COVID-19 without another contributing factor.
- 2.) Four people who died due to COVID-19 were on ventilation during their treatment.
- 3.) The Ministry does not collect or retain data in relation to palliative care.
- 4.) The Ministry does not collect or retain data in relation to DNR orders.
- 5.) Fourteen people who died due to COVID-19 had underlying conditions, as listed in the table in point 6 below.
- 6.) The table below shows the number of people who had each of the underlying conditions.

Underlying Condition¹	No. of People
Chronic Lung Disease	5
Cardiovascular Disease	8
Diabetes	5
Immunodeficiency, including HIV	0
Liver Disease	0
Malignancy	0
Chronic neurological or neuromuscular disease	4
Post-partum (< 6 weeks)	0
Pregnancy	0
Renal failure	1

¹ *The categories you provided in your request map to these groupings with the exception of obesity, sickle cell disease, smoking and thalassemia. Note that 6 people had more than one underlying condition.*

7.) Six people who died due to COVID-19 had more than one underlying condition.

7a.) The table below shows the number of underlying conditions each person had. Please note these are ordered by the number of underlying conditions, not by date of death.

Anonymised Patient	No. of Underlying Conditions
Patient A	0
Patient B	0
Patient C	0
Patient D	0
Patient E	0
Patient F	0
Patient G	0
Patient H	0
Patient I	0
Patient J	0
Patient K	0
Patient L	1
Patient M	1
Patient N	1
Patient O	1
Patient P	1
Patient Q	1
Patient R	1
Patient S	1
Patient T	2
Patient U	2
Patient V	2
Patient W	3
Patient X	3
Patient Y	3

I trust this information fulfils your request. Under section 28(3) of the Act you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review any decisions made under this request.

Please note that this response, with your personal details removed, may be published on the Ministry of Health website.

Yours sincerely



Laura Cleary
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Ministry of Health