

11th May 2021

Barbara Belger

By email: fyi-request-15022-85564d21@requests.fyi.org.nz
Ref: H202105172

Dear Barbara Belger

Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) to the Ministry of Health (the Ministry) on 1st May 2021 for:

"Please can you specify HOW and where you dispose of the CoVid19 PCR test 'material' gathered from individuals here in New Zealand and confirm that actually you ARE disposing of the material in any event."

All medical laboratory diagnostic waste, including COVID-19 test material is disposed of in accordance to NZS 4304 2002. You can view the New Zealand Standard Management of Healthcare Waste at: <https://www.standards.govt.nz/shop/nzs-43042002/>.

COVID-19 test material is categorised as infectious waste, further information is available at: <https://interwaste.co.nz/legislation>. All laboratories and district health boards have contracted waste management providers that comply with the standard to dispose of infectious waste appropriately.

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. The Ombudsman may be contacted by email at: info@ombudsman.parliament.nz or by calling 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely



Gill Hall
Group Manager, COVID-19 Science and Insights
COVID-19 Health System Response