

27 October 2021

Robin Benson

By email: fyi-request-16894-15530d2e@requests.fyi.org.nz  
Ref: H202113152

Tēnā koe Robin

### **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 27 September 2021 for:

*“Please provide definitions or other determinative factors of Covid19 vaccinated vs unvaccinated that are used and will be used in NZ to differentiate between these.”*

In relation to New Zealand's COVID-19 vaccination programme, using the Pfizer vaccine, the Ministry considers vaccination status as the following:

- Someone who is unvaccinated has not received any vaccination;
- Someone who has received one dose is partly vaccinated; and
- Someone who has received two doses is fully vaccinated.

While these are the Ministry's definitions, it has no control over the descriptors used by others. There is more information about COVID-19 vaccines at: [www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-vaccines/covid-19-how-vaccine-works](http://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-vaccines/covid-19-how-vaccine-works).

The definitions used at the border, where someone has been vaccinated overseas, are the same as those used for people vaccinated in New Zealand, namely that one dose means a person is partly vaccinated and two doses means they are fully vaccinated. However, if the person has received the Johnson & Johnson Janssen vaccine overseas (which is a single-dose vaccine), they are deemed fully vaccinated with one dose.

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](mailto:info@ombudsman.parliament.nz) or by calling 0800 802 602.

Please note that this response, with your personal details removed, may be published on the Ministry website at: [www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/information-releases/responses-official-information-act-requests](http://www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/information-releases/responses-official-information-act-requests).

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Fiona Michel'.

Fiona Michel  
**Acting National Director**  
**COVID-19 Vaccine and Immunisation Programme**