

27 October 2021

James Graham

By email: [fyi-request-16940-ff3e5aa9@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-16940-ff3e5aa9@requests.fyi.org.nz)  
Ref: H202113414

Tēnā koe James

### Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) for information related to COVID-19 testing. On 30 September 2021, your request was transferred from the Office of the Minister for COVID-19 Response, Hon Chris Hipkins, to the Ministry of Health (the Ministry) for response. Please find a response to each part of your request below:

*"1. Can you please provide the total number of tests, positive test results and the positivity rate for all COVID-19 tests of returnees in the MIQ system since the start of the Delta outbreak in Auckland, August 17, 2021? Please further break these numbers down by vaccination status - by unvaccinated, one dose and two dose vaccinated."*

There were 14,493 COVID-19 tests taken of returnees in the Managed Isolation and Quarantine (MIQ) system between 17 August 2021 and 17 October 2021. Of the total number, 155 returned a positive test result for COVID-19. These figures result in a positivity rate of 1.07%. A further breakdown of these values is refused under section 18(g) of the Act, as that information, in its requested form, is not held by the Ministry. Providing this information would require the Ministry to create new information by writing and running code, cross-referencing data sets, and extracting the information output. However, you may find the information in Table 1 below useful. This table breaks down the proportion of arrivals and cases are vaccinated.

**Table 1:**

COVID 19 Vaccine Status	arrivals	Percentage of arrivals that become cases
Full	10012	0.24
Partial	595	0.5
Unvaccinated	2121	1.08
Unknown	431	0
Ineligible because under 12	1833	0.6

Please note the caveats around Table 1:

- This covers MIQF returnees who arrived in New Zealand between 24 August 2021 and 18 October 2021
- Vaccination status is self-reported

*“2. Can you please provide the total number of tests, positive test results and the positivity rate for all COVID-19 tests completed in the Auckland region excluding tests of returnees in MIQ since the start of the Delta outbreak in Auckland, August 17, 2021?”*

This part of your request has been interpreted as requesting information from the three district health boards (DHBs) within the Auckland region. There were 439,337 COVID-19 tests taken between 17 August 2021 and 17 October 2021 excluding the number of tests of returnees. Of this value, 1849 returned a positive COVID-19 test result. These figures result in a positivity rate of 0.42%.

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 of Health website at: [www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/information-releases](http://www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/information-releases).

Nāku noa, nā



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