



16 August 2022

P McKenna

By email: fyi-request-19938-b42604c5@requests.fyi.org.nz
Ref: H2022007735

Tēnā koe

Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) to Manatū Hauora (Ministry of Health) on 17 July 2022 for information relating to COVID-19 case numbers and hospitalisations. Your request is responded to below in turn.

1) On the 8th of July 2022 there was a change on the table 'Vaccination details' on the Covid-19 Case demographics page (<https://www.health.govt.nz/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-data-and-statistics/covid-19-case-demographics>). Compared to same table on the 7th July, total cases of Covid-19 reduced for Partially vaccinated by 11,421, and Fully vaccinated reduced 853. Unvaccinated and boosted on the other hand increased by 14336, and 45,636 cases respectively. Can you please explain the case definition or allocation policy that resulted in these significant changes?

2) On the same table on the same day, hospitalisations decreased for all categories (except for the new 'Under 12 years old' category). Presumably this is because non-covid related hospitalisations have been removed as per the note at the bottom of the table. But the decrease was not any where near uniform. Unvaccinated decreased only 11.6% while partially vaccinated, fully vaccinated, and boosted decreased 71.9%, 56%, and 44.1% respectively.

Why would the new policy result in a disproportionate reduction especially for the unvaccinated category?

The vaccination status of cases was classified incorrectly for approximately a week following changes introduced with our reporting upgrades on 6 July 2022. This was due to a coding error that resulted in vaccination status of cases being reported as it was a week after they tested positive for COVID-19, rather than a week before they tested positive for COVID-19.

The change in reporting was due to a switch in data sources to new data which provides insight into how many hospitalisations were *for* COVID-19, rather than just *with* COVID-19.

More information about the change in reporting can be found in our media release:

www.health.govt.nz/news-media/news-items/new-covid-19-data-provides-improved-insight-impact-pandemic.

A spreadsheet containing vaccination breakdowns of cases, hospitalisations and ICU as they should have been reported each day from 6 July to 13 July 2022 is attached as Appendix 1.

3) What is the reason for changing the 'Not eligible' category to 'Under 12 years old'? Does the latter include both vaccinated and unvaccinated? If so, what are the numbers for each?

The "ineligible" category has always referred to people under the age of 12. This change in terminology does not reflect a change in definitions used.

We have delayed including 5-11 year olds in the "eligible" figures to allow time for the rollout of vaccination to occur. We are looking into adjusting the 'ineligible' category to refer to only under-5s in the near future.

4) Does the ministry record the number of all hospitalisations for any reason by vaccination status? If so can you supply the totals for the month of June?

Manatū Hauora does not have a dataset for all hospitalisations by vaccination status. Therefore, this part of your request is refused under section 18(g)(i) of the Act as the information requested is not held by the Ministry and there are no grounds for believing it is held by another agency subject to the Act. Please note, this information may be held across multiple datasets but would require substantial collation to create in the format requested.

5) on the Vaccination Data page for the table 'Total Vaccinations 12+' There is an entry for 'Third Primary'. What is this category for?

The 'Third Primary' category is for people who have received three doses of a COVID-19 vaccine as part of their primary course. Normally a primary course consists of two doses of a COVID-19 vaccine, but immunocompromised people aged 12+ are eligible for three doses as part of their primary course, as well as a first and second booster (5 doses total). This information can be found on our website here: www.health.govt.nz/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-vaccines/covid-19-vaccine-severely-immunocompromised-people#third.

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.

Please note that this response, with your personal details removed, may be published on Manatū Hauorā website at: www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/information-releases/responses-official-information-act-requests.

Nāku noa, nā



Dr Andrew Old
**Deputy Director-General
Public Health Agency**