

22 July 2024

Erika Whittome

By email: [fyi-request-27322-1fe603e9@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-27322-1fe603e9@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Tēnā koe Erika

I refer to your request for information dated 21 June 2024 made under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). You have requested:

1. *Would Dr Michael Baker kindly share the information on the general Infection Fatality Rate of the Covid-19 disease?*
2. *Please share the infection fatality rate of this disease in New Zealand for the years 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 and up to the current date in 2024.*

Please see below our response to your request.

The University of Otago does not hold the information you have requested. The infection fatality risk (IFR) is not available in New Zealand, and we therefore decline your request pursuant to section 18(g) of the Act, as the information is not held, and there are no grounds to believe it is held by, or more closely connected with the functions of, another agency subject to the Act. The comments made by Professor Baker were in relation to the increase in hospitalisations and more virus detected in wastewater – he made no comment on IFR.

Despite this refusal, we note that there are a number of publicly available resources and publications that discuss IFR and case fatality risk (CFR) in further detail. The following articles summarise some of the work undertaken to generate IFR estimates:

- [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(21\)02867-1/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(21)02867-1/fulltext)
- <https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2021.07.29.21261282v2.full>
- <https://www.phcc.org.nz/briefing/covid-19-case-fatality-risk-infection-fatality-risk-important-measures-help-guide-pandemic>

Further information on cases, deaths, hospitalisations, and wastewater detection can be found at the following locations:

- <https://www.tewhātuora.govt.nz/for-health-professionals/data-and-statistics/covid-19-data/>
- <https://tewhātuora.shinyapps.io/covid19/>
- <https://www.health.govt.nz/publication/covid-19-mortality-aotearoa-new-zealand-inequities-risk>
- [https://esr-cri.shinyapps.io/wastewater/#region=Wellington&log\\_or\\_linear=linear&period=twelveMonthsButton](https://esr-cri.shinyapps.io/wastewater/#region=Wellington&log_or_linear=linear&period=twelveMonthsButton)

I trust that this information will be helpful.

If you are not satisfied with our response to your information request, section 28(3) of the Act provides you with the right to ask an Ombudsman to investigate and review this response. However, we would welcome the opportunity to discuss any concerns with you first.

Ngā mihi

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kelsey Kennard', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Kelsey Kennard  
Official Information and Compliance Coordinator  
Office of the Registrar and Secretary to the Council