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Catherine Jamieson

By email: [fyi-request-27389-18027497@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-27389-18027497@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Ref: H2024046068

Tēnā koe Catherine

### Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) which was transferred from Health New Zealand – Te Whatu Ora to the Ministry of Health – Manatū Hauora (the Ministry) on 10 July 2024 for information regarding COVID-19 Vaccines provided to pacific islands. Please find a response to each part of your request below.

*How many doses of Covid vaccines by manufacturer and type (adult, paediatric, infant) has New Zealand provided to each of :*

- i) Cook Islands*
- ii) Tokelau*
- iii) Niue*
- iv) Samoa*
- v) Tonga*
- vi) Fiji?*

Please see the table below which outlines New Zealand's bilateral donation of Pfizer's Comirnaty COVID-19 vaccine to date:

| <b>NZ's bilateral donation of Pfizer's Comirnaty COVID-19 Vaccine</b> |               |                   |                    |                |
|---|---------------|-------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| <b>Country</b>  | <b>Infant</b> | <b>Paediatric</b> | <b>Adult (12+)</b> | <b>Total</b>   |
| Cook Islands  | -             | 4,640             | 40,428             | 45,068         |
| Niue  | -             | 690               | 4,880              | 5,570          |
| Tokelau   | -             | 700               | 4,590              | 5,290          |
| Fiji*   | -             | 50,000            | 52,560             | 102,560        |
| Samoa*  | -             | 86,000            | 83,670             | 169,670        |
| Tonga*  | -             | 26,400            | 61,590             | 87,990         |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>0</b>      | <b>168,430</b>    | <b>247,718</b>     | <b>416,148</b> |

New Zealand has donated other COVID-19 vaccines products, such as AstraZeneca, to Fiji, Samoa, and Tonga through global mechanisms. Information regarding these donations which may be of interest to you are publicly available through the following links:

- [www.mfat.govt.nz/assets/OIA/OIA-2021-22/OIA-27892-NZs-participation-in-the-COVAX-program.pdf](http://www.mfat.govt.nz/assets/OIA/OIA-2021-22/OIA-27892-NZs-participation-in-the-COVAX-program.pdf).
- [fyi.org.nz/request/17271/response/67094/attach/html/4/H202114701.pdf.html](http://fyi.org.nz/request/17271/response/67094/attach/html/4/H202114701.pdf.html).

*Please supply a step by step overview of the logistics involved in transporting the vaccines from when they first arrive in New Zealand to these final destinations. If this is not able to be made available please supply documents that evidence this supply chain. Please include documents to demonstrate all points in the delivery chain where ownership transfers and to who.*

All COVID-19 vaccines arriving in New Zealand are managed and distributed according to the National Immunisation Operating Guidelines and National Standards for Vaccine Storage and Transportation for Immunisation Providers 2017. These can be found through the following links:

- [www.health.govt.nz/publication/national-standards-vaccine-storage-and-transportation-immunisation-providers-2017](http://www.health.govt.nz/publication/national-standards-vaccine-storage-and-transportation-immunisation-providers-2017).
- [www.tewhātuora.govt.nz/health-services-and-programmes/vaccine-information/vaccine-service-delivery/covid-19-vaccine-delivery/vaccine-operating-and-planning-guidelines/](http://www.tewhātuora.govt.nz/health-services-and-programmes/vaccine-information/vaccine-service-delivery/covid-19-vaccine-delivery/vaccine-operating-and-planning-guidelines/).

Please see a step-by-step overview below:

1. COVID-19 vaccine and consumables requests to New Zealand are received by the Ministry of Health from Pacific health officials.
2. Healthcare Logistics (one of the domestic storage and suppliers for vaccine in New Zealand), processes the orders and dispatches the consignment to a contracted freight forwarder via New Zealand Post courier. The vaccines are inside a Credo box that has been validated to maintain the cold chain (2-8°C) for up to 72 hours.
3. The freight forwarder makes the delivery to the recipient country within 24 hours of receipt, subject to flight availability, and handles the vaccines according to the Medsafe datasheet and National Standards for Vaccine Storage and Transportation for Immunisation Providers 2017.
4. Door-to-door logistical support is provided by the freight forwarder, which includes booking air freight, generating customs clearance documents, and liaising with airlines and other freight forwarders if/when necessary.
5. Pacific health officials confirm receipt of vaccines in good condition and without any defect within 24 hours of receipt. Ownership of the donated vaccines is transferred to the recipient government at this point, for use in accordance with the Medsafe datasheet and international best practice.
6. Empty Credo boxes are returned to Healthcare Logistics.

Please note, each country has its own internal process for storing, handling, and distributing the vaccine in line with suppliers' instructions, the Medsafe datasheet (where applicable), and with international best practices. For further information, please contact the appropriate health authorities in the country of interest.

I trust this information fulfils your request. If you wish to discuss any aspect of your request with us, including this decision, please feel free to contact the OIA Services Team on: [oiagr@health.govt.nz](mailto:oiagr@health.govt.nz).

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 Manatū Hauora 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 black ink, appearing to be 'A. Old', written in a cursive style.

Dr Andrew Old  
**Deputy Director-General**  
**Public Health Agency | Te Pou Hauora Tūmatanui**