

8 May 2026

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Tēnā koe John

Your request for official information, reference: HN200202369

Thank you for your email on 10 April 2026, asking Health New Zealand | Te Whatu Ora for the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the OIA):

The following information under the Official Information Act 1982 for all health workers and vaccinators at Middlemore Hospital, Highbrook Vaccination centre and subsequently all other vaccination centres rolled out in 2021.

- 1. Safety Data Sheet (SDS) integration: Copies of any Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine Safety Data Sheets (SDS) or equivalent handling documentation held or relied upon, Any internal analysis of SDS requirements for workplace safety*
- 2. Risk assessments: All task-based or site-specific risk assessments relating to: handling, preparation, administration of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine*
- 3. PPE determinations: Documents specifying required PPE for vaccinators, Any assessment linking PPE requirements to: exposure risk, manufacturer guidance (including SDS).*
- 4. Training and competency: Training materials provided to vaccinators relating to: handling of the vaccine, exposure risks, PPE use.*
- 5. Compliance and audit: Any audits, reviews, or compliance reports confirming: adherence to HSWA obligations, correct PPE usage in vaccination centres, any Worksafe audits undertaken.*
- 6. Delegation to providers: Any guidance, instructions, or contractual requirements requiring providers to: undertake risk assessments, implement PPE controls.*

Response

For clarity, I will address each question in turn.

- 1. Safety Data Sheet (SDS) integration: Copies of any Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine Safety Data Sheets (SDS) or equivalent handling documentation held or relied upon, Any internal analysis of SDS requirements for workplace safety*

Vaccinators administering the COVID-19 vaccine would have referred to the relevant New Zealand data sheet (the data sheet) for the specific vaccine that they were using. Data sheets for all medicines (including vaccines) used in New Zealand are available on the Medsafe website at <https://medsafe.govt.nz/profs/Datasheet/datasheet.htm>.

There were no specific handling requirements for the COVID-19 vaccine and instructions for drawing up the vaccine were specified within the relevant data sheets. Health NZ is not aware of any internal analysis that was completed for the purposes of workplace safety. This information is

therefore refused under section 18(e) of the OIA as it does not exist or, despite reasonable efforts to locate it, cannot be found.

2. Risk assessments: All task-based or site-specific risk assessments relating to: handling, preparation, administration of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine

Health NZ is not aware of any national requirement for a risk assessment to be completed relating to handling, preparation, or administration of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine. This part of your request is therefore refused under section 18(e) of the OIA as the information requested does not exist or, despite reasonable efforts to locate it, cannot be found.

Vaccinators adhere to the standard training provided to them with regards to vaccine storage, handling, and administration, and follow the guidance provided in the relevant data sheet provided by Medsafe and the Immunisation Handbook. The Immunisation Handbook provides clinical guidelines for safe vaccine administration.

3. PPE determinations: Documents specifying required PPE for vaccinators, Any assessment linking PPE requirements to: exposure risk, manufacturer guidance (including SDS).

Vaccinators were bound by the requirements of the COVID-19 Alert Level system, which stipulated that at higher alert levels, medical-grade masks should be worn in situations where physical distancing between providers and patients was not possible such as when administering vaccines.

Additionally, as noted above, vaccinators would also adhere to the standard training provided to them with regards to vaccine storage, handling, and administration, and follow the guidance provided in the relevant data sheet provided by Medsafe and the Immunisation Handbook.

4. Training and competency: Training materials provided to vaccinators relating to: handling of the vaccine, exposure risks, PPE use.

As advised via email on 1 May 2026, we have transferred the part of this question regarding training materials provided to vaccinators relating to handling of the vaccine to the Immunisation Advisory Centre at the University of Auckland (IMAC). This is because training relating to handling of the vaccine for COVID-19 vaccinators is more closely connected to the functions of IMAC. In these circumstances, we are required by section 14 of the OIA to transfer your request. You should expect to hear from IMAC in due course. If you need to get in touch with IMAC, you can contact them at legal@auckland.ac.nz.

The remaining parts of this question have been addressed in the questions above.

5. Compliance and audit: Any audits, reviews, or compliance reports confirming: adherence to HSWA obligations, correct PPE usage in vaccination centres, any Worksafe audits undertaken.

Health NZ is not aware of any audits or reviews that took place to assess vaccine providers' adherence to PPE requirements, or of any Worksafe audits undertaken. Therefore, the information in this part of your request is refused under section 18(e) of the OIA as it does not exist or, despite reasonable efforts to locate it, cannot be found.

6. Delegation to providers: Any guidance, instructions, or contractual requirements requiring providers to: undertake risk assessments, implement PPE controls.

Health NZ is not aware of any specific instructions provided to vaccination sites or contractual requirements requiring providers or vaccinators to carry out risk assessments or implement

additional PPE controls when handling or administering the COVID-19 vaccine. The information in this part of your request is therefore refused under section 18(e) of the OIA as it does not exist or, despite reasonable efforts to locate it, cannot be found.

How to get in touch

If you have any questions, you can contact us at h.nzOIA@tewhaturora.govt.nz.

If you are not happy with this response, you have the right to make a complaint to the Ombudsman. Information about how to do this is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or by phoning 0800 802 602.

As this information may be of interest to other members of the public, Health NZ may proactively release a copy of this response on our website. All requester data, including your name and contact details, will be removed prior to release.

Nāku iti noa, nā



Sara Freitag

Manager, Government Services