

2nd February 2022



Official Information Act Request for – Opportunistic Vaccinations

I write in response to your Official Information Act request received by us 16th December 2021 by way of transfer from the Ministry of Health (ref: H202116846), you requested the following information:

1. **A list of all district health board emergency departments that have a policy to provide COVID -19 vaccinations to unvaccinated people (COVID-19) who attend the emergency department**
2. **A list of all district health board emergency departments, paediatric debarments or wards that have a policy to provide childhood immunisations to all unvaccinated children who attend the department or ward**
3. **What plan each district health board has to connect people or children not currently enrolled in primary care who attend the emergency department or other departments - in primary care (registered with a PHO) - currently only 84% of Māori are enrolled in primary care (PHO).**

Counties Manukau Health Response:

For context Counties Manukau Health (CM Health) employs over 8,500 staff and provides health and support services to people living in the Counties Manukau region (approx. 601,490 people). We see over 118,000 people in our Emergency Department each year, and over 2,000 visitors come through Middlemore Hospital daily.

Our services are delivered via hospital, outpatient, ambulatory and community-based models of care. We provide regional and supra-regional specialist services i.e. for orthopaedics, plastics, burns and spinal services. There are also several specialist services provided including tertiary surgical services, medical services, mental health and addiction services.

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CM Health are able to provide opportunistic Covid vaccinations in the Emergency Department to patients, family/wahaanau and friends.

Two vaccination teams Monday to Friday and one vaccination team on Saturday and Sunday were based in the Emergency Department until the 10th December 2021 to offer covid

vaccinations. Due to the drive and uptake in community vaccinations with events such as 'Super Saturday' etc. these staff members were redeployed to support other areas of the organisation. The Emergency Department and Paediatric Emergency Department now use the inpatient service and request Covid vaccinations as required however the Emergency Department has been working on training 20 staff vaccinators.

We do not have a policy in relation to providing covid vaccinations to unvaccinated people. We have an Inpatient Covid-19 Vaccination Procedure to ensure all staff responsible for delivering Covid-19 vaccinations follow the same process.

3. What plan each district health board has to connect people or children not currently enrolled in primary care who attend the emergency department or other departments - in primary care (registered with a PHO) - currently only 84% of Māori are enrolled in primary care (PHO).

People who are not enrolled with a general practice (including children) that present to the Emergency Department are given information on where to find information about practices and how to enrol. For some children, there are further wrap around services (for example from the Maaori health team) which aim to link whaanau into services including primary care. There is also ongoing additional work to encourage enrolment for children (particularly tamariki Maaori and Pacific) with PHOs, local general practices and NGO providers.

Kidz First checks the immunisation status of all children admitted to the ward (for the current routine childhood vaccinations) and offers vaccinations to all children who are due or overdue for a vaccination before they go home. We are currently working with The Northern Region Health Coordination Centre around the ability to deliver covid-19 vaccinations to the 5-11-year-old age group of children admitted to Kidz First.

I trust this information answers your request. You are entitled to seek a review of the response by the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or Freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that this response or an edited version of this may be published on the Counties Manukau Health website. If you consider there are good reasons why this response should not be made publicly available, we will be happy to consider this.

Yours sincerely



Fepulea'i Margie Apa
Chief Executive Officer
Counties Manukau Health