

19th April 2022



Official Information Act Request for – Covid-19 Hospitalisations

I write in response to your Official Information Act request received by us 22nd March 20220 by way of transfer from the Ministry of Health, you requested the following information:

“Please provide data as follows:

- 1. Covid hospitalisation directly related to covid and covid only.**
- 2. Covid hospitalisation where patient was admitted for another reason and covid was detected after arriving at the hospital.**
- 3. ICU and HDU beds used for covid only infections.**
- 4. ICU and HDU beds used for non-covid conditions where a covid test after arriving at the hospital showed infection.**

This data should be provided on a weekly basis and should not show any details of any patient for confidentiality reasons. The data is available as part of the collection of information at the hospital and should be being collected for clear data in this pandemic. Do not claim there is a privacy issue as I am not requesting any patients’ names, ages, sex or other pronoun, location or any other identifying information.”

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.

- 1. Covid hospitalisation directly related to covid and covid only.**
- 2. Covid hospitalisation where patient was admitted for another reason and covid was detected after arriving at the hospital.**

In response to questions one and two of your request, many patients present to our Emergency Department daily, our process at present is to perform a COVID-19 PCR test to confirm a patients COVID status, after their arrival. Symptomatic patients or patients who have been in contact with a positive case are presumed to be COVID positive and are isolated and streamed accordingly, while we await confirmation of their test results.

Many patients, including within the wider hospital, have underlying health conditions. For this reason, it is not always clear if COVID-19 is the reason for their admission or if it is due to an underlying health condition (e.g. congestive heart failure, lung disease or cellulitis etc.). Because of this, we advise caution when interpreting the figures provided below.

Appendix 1 reflects the information you have requested. We are withholding numbers fewer than four (4) under section 9(2)(a) of the Official Information Act to protect the privacy of individual patients. We have considered whether the public interest in releasing the information outweighs the need to protect the privacy of individual patients and have determined that it does not. Disclosing the exact numbers on a week-by-week basis creates the risk that individuals will be identifiable.

3. ICU and HDU beds used for covid only infections.

There are no beds in our Critical Care Complex used only for COVID-19 infections. All negative pressure Critical Care Complex beds can be used for any patient and we flex bed numbers and staffing up or down, depending on demand.

COVID-19 patients are streamed separately from other patients so there is no risk of cross-infection.

4. ICU and HDU beds used for non-covid conditions where a covid test after arriving at the hospital showed infection.

This is not data that is routinely collected by CM Health and would involve considerable time to manually search through individual patient files to identify this information.

Due to the sensitivity of this information, frontline clinical staff would need to review individual clinical files and it would not be appropriate to use a contractor to review the records. This would take the frontline staff away from their clinical work and prejudice our ability to provide core clinical services.

We have considered whether charging or extending the timeframe for responding to this aspect of your request would assist us in managing this work and have concluded it would not. We have, therefore, determined to decline this element of your request under Section 18(f) of the Official Information Act 1982 due to substantial collation and research.

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



Pauline McGrath
Chief Operating Officer and Acting Chief Executive Officer
Counties Manukau Health

Appendix 1

Month	Week	COVID-19 hospitalisation where patient was admitted for another reason and COVID was detected after arriving at the hospital	Hospitalisation directly related to COVID-19
March 2020	02/03/2020		
	09/03/2020		
	16/03/2020		
	23/03/2020		<4
	30/03/2020		4
April 2020	06/04/2020		<4
	13/04/2020		<4
	20/04/2020		<4
	27/04/2020		<4
May 2020	04/05/2020		<4
	11/05/2020		
	18/05/2020		
	25/05/2020		<4
June 2020	01/06/2020		
	08/06/2020		
	15/06/2020		
	22/06/2020		
	29/06/2020		
July 2020	06/07/2020		
	13/07/2020	<4	
	20/07/2020	<4	
	27/07/2020		
August 2020	03/08/2020		
	10/08/2020		
	17/08/2020		<4
	24/08/2020	<4	<4
	31/08/2020		<4
September 2020	07/09/2020	<4	<4
	14/09/2020		<4
	21/09/2020		
	28/09/2020		<4
October 2020	05/10/2020		<4
	12/10/2020		
	19/10/2020		
	26/10/2020		
November 2020	02/11/2020		
	09/11/2020	<4	
	16/11/2020		
	23/11/2020		

	30/11/2020		
December 2020	07/12/2020		
	14/12/2020		
	21/12/2020	<4	
	28/12/2020		
January 2021	04/01/2021		
	11/01/2021		
	18/01/2021		
	25/01/2021		
February 2021	01/02/2021		
	08/02/2021		
	15/02/2021		
	22/02/2021	<4	
March 2021	01/03/2021		
	08/03/2021		<4
	15/03/2021		
	22/03/2021		
	29/03/2021		
April 2021	05/04/2021		
	12/04/2021		
	19/04/2021		
	26/04/2021		
May 2021	03/05/2021		
	10/05/2021		
	17/05/2021		
	24/05/2021		
	31/05/2021		
June 2021	07/06/2021		
	14/06/2021		<4
	21/06/2021		
	28/06/2021		<4
July 2021	05/07/2021		
	12/07/2021		
	19/07/2021		
	26/07/2021		
August 2021	02/08/2021		<4
	09/08/2021		
	16/08/2021		<4
	23/08/2021	<4	8
	30/08/2021		14
September 2021	06/09/2021	<4	13
	13/09/2021		8
	20/09/2021	<4	8
	27/09/2021	<4	7
October 2021	04/10/2021	<4	7
	11/10/2021		16

	18/10/2021	<4	18
	25/10/2021	<4	29
November 2021	01/11/2021	8	29
	08/11/2021	5	43
	15/11/2021	<4	56
	22/11/2021	4	31
	29/11/2021	7	30
December 2021	06/12/2021	4	18
	13/12/2021	<4	18
	20/12/2021	<4	9
	27/12/2021		9
January 2022	03/01/2022	<4	6
	10/01/2022		5
	17/01/2022		<4
	24/01/2022		4
	31/01/2022	<4	9
February 2022	07/02/2022	<4	26
	14/02/2022	16	91
	21/02/2022	33	215
	Total	109	759