



22 December 2021



Dear 

Re: OIA request – Number of COVID-19 hospital admissions

Thank you for your Official Information Act request received 13 December 2021 seeking information from Waitematā District Health Board (DHB) about COVID-19 hospital admissions.

Before responding to your specific questions, it may be useful to provide some context about our services.

Waitematā is the largest and one of the most rapidly growing DHBs in the country, serving a population of around 650,000 across the North Shore, Waitakere and Rodney areas. We are the largest employer in the district, employing around 8,600 people across more than 80 locations.

In addition to providing care to our own resident population, we are the Northern Region provider of forensic mental health services and child rehabilitation services, plus the metro Auckland provider of child community dental services and community alcohol and drug services.

In response to your request, we are able to provide the following information:

- 1. Figures showing the number of COVID-19 admissions at hospital-level during the Delta outbreak in the DHB region to include North Shore Hospital, Waitakere Hospital and any other DHB facility used for COVID-19 admissions.**
- 2. Figures showing admissions by ward type at hospital level; by ICU, general ward, or other ward types, such as paediatric.**

We are providing a combined response to questions 1 and 2. Please note that the figures below show the number of inpatient event counts, which may include multiple admissions for the same patient.

Patients requiring hospital-level care in our district are admitted for treatment to North Shore Hospital or, where needed, the adult mental health unit He Puna Waiora on the North Shore campus.

Figures for some areas have been combined due to the very low numbers. The exact breakdown of the numbers in the category "Other" have been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Official Information Act to protect the privacy of individual patients admitted to specific services. We have considered whether the public interest in knowing the information outweighs the individual patients' right to privacy and have concluded it does not.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to seek a review is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

The information provided for Waitakere Hospital shows the number of people who were triaged through that hospital's Emergency Department and transferred to North Shore Hospital or another facility or hospital and, therefore, may be counted again in the North Shore Hospital data. North Shore Hospital data shows the service name a patient is admitted under and discharged from.

Therefore, one patient could potentially be recorded a number of times in this data. Caution is recommended when comparing data with that provided by other DHBs unless consistent methodology has been used.

Number of COVID-19 hospital-level admissions during the Delta outbreak in Waitemātā DHB hospitals by ward, service and unit

| Hospital, service and unit admissions 17 August to 13 December 2021 | Number of admissions | Admissions to ICU |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------|
| North Shore Hospital campus | 281 | 14 |
| COVID-19 wards | | |
| Elective Surgery Centre | 75 | 3 |
| ICU/HDU | 7 | 7 |
| Ward 11 | 90 | 0 |
| Emergency Department | | |
| Emergency Care Centre | 74 | 0 |
| General wards and surgical ward | | |
| Wards 2, 3 (general) and 7 (surgical) | 7 | 0 |
| Ward 10 | 18 | 4 |
| Other* | 10 | 0 |
| Waitakere Hospital | 71 | 0 |
| Total | 352 | 14 |

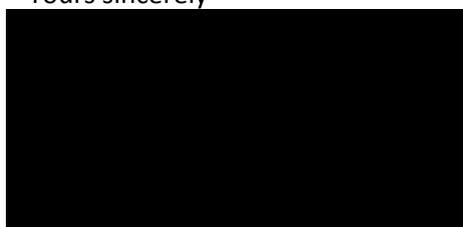
*Includes birthing unit, maternity, obstetrics and gynaecology and our adult mental health unit, He Puna Waiora.

I trust that this information is helpful.

Waitemātā DHB supports the open disclosure of information to assist community understanding of how we are delivering publicly funded healthcare. This includes the proactive publication of anonymised Official Information Act responses on our website from 10 working days after they have been released.

If you consider there are good reasons why this response should not be made publicly available, we will be happy to consider your views.

Yours sincerely



**Acting Executive Director Hospital Services
Waitemātā District Health Board**