

14 October 2019

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Re: OIA request – Number of staff with confirmed measles this year and vaccination rates

Thank you for your Official Information Act request received 30 September 2019 seeking the following of Waitematā District Health Board (DHB):

- *I would like to request official information on the number of staff at North Shore Hospital confirmed with measles so far this year (to 30 September), please?*
- *Were the staff hospitalised?*
- *What is the vaccination rate among staff?*
- *In addition, how many patients with measles have been hospitalized in North Shore Hospital to 30 September?*
- *How many measles cases were from Devonport, Narrow Neck, Belmont, Stanley Bay, Bayswater and Hauraki?*
- *How many measles cases were from Takapuna, Milford, Sunnynook, Castor Bay or Forrest Hill?*

Before responding to your questions, it may be useful to provide context about our infection prevention and control policies to assist in the interpretation of the information provided.

Many of our clinical staff come into regular close contact with a cross-section of the public and this increases the chance of them being exposed to a range of illnesses.

We proactively encourage our staff to ensure they are vaccinated to protect themselves, their patients and the public. We offer MMR and other vaccinations to all staff. This is a free service.

The infection prevention and control nurse specialists have a close daily working relationship with the infectious disease physicians and clinical microbiology for advice and support.

When a staff member is known to have been exposed to a patient with confirmed measles, then the staff member's immunity status is reviewed (either past history of known or presumed measles, or relevant serology).

If a staff member is considered immune, then no further action is taken and they are able to continue normal clinical work and patient contact.

If a staff member is non-immune, then the staff member does not undertake clinical duty until the incubation period has passed.

The staff member will also be offered the measles (using MMR) vaccination to ensure future immunity.

If a staff member has or develops measles, then they will remain off work until the measles rash appears or until otherwise medically cleared as fit to return to work.

In response to your request, we have provided answers to each question separately, as requested, below. In addition you may find it helpful to refer to the latest interim report to 17 September 2019 on the Auckland Regional Public Health Service website:

https://www.arphs.health.nz/assets/Uploads/Resources/Disease-and-illness/Measles-Mumps-Rubella/Measles-hospitalisations-and-complications_Metro-Auckland-Report_September-2019.pdf

I would like to request official information on the number of staff at North Shore Hospital confirmed with measles so far this year (to 30 September), please?

There have been no cases of confirmed measles amongst North Shore Hospital staff to September 30 of this year.

Were the staff hospitalised?

Please refer above.

What is the vaccination rate among staff?

We have interpreted this question as being in relation to North Shore Hospital staff.

As the patient management system holds records for all staff, past and present - some 11,500 individual records, providing information on the vaccination rate among North Shore Hospital staff would take significant collation and research by specialist staff.

However, the metro Auckland IMT (Incident Management Team), which includes the Waitematā, Auckland and Counties Manukau district health boards, has determined that the measles immunity status for key staff in high-contact areas should be recorded.

Therefore, we can provide information relating to North Shore Hospital's Emergency Department (ED) and Special Care Baby Unit (SCBU), below.

Please note, these figures were correct as at 10 May 2019 and may have changed since this time:

North Shore Hospital	ED Admin	ED Nurses	ED Doctors	SCBU
Numbers of staff	40	124	28	29
Numbers with recorded immunity ¹	30	121	24	29
Percentage with recorded immunity	75%	98%	86%	100%
No records ²	10	3	4	0

¹From receiving 2x MMR vaccinations, or born pre-1969, or with a positive measles immunity serology (blood test).

²Immunisation status not recorded – does not indicate non-immunisation.

In addition, how many patients with measles have been hospitalized in North Shore Hospital to 30 September?

There have been 90 Waitematā DHB residents hospitalised, of whom 17 have been hospitalised at North Shore Hospital.

How many measles cases were from Devonport, Narrow Neck, Belmont, Stanley Bay, Bayswater and Hauraki?

Providing the level of detail sought on measles cases from these specific locations would be a major undertaking for Auckland Regional Public Health Service (ARPHS), which collates such figures, whilst in the midst of an Auckland-wide response to the current measles outbreak.

We have considered whether charging for the staff time required to undertake this work or extending the timeframe for responding would assist in managing the burden of collating this information and have determined that neither of these options is available to us at this time. Therefore, we are declining this element of your request under Section 18(f) of the Official Information Act due to substantial collation or research.

Further to this, due to the very low numbers of cases, providing this information could potentially identify the individuals who have been hospitalised. Therefore, we are also declining this request under Section 9(2)(a) of the Official Information Act to protect the privacy of natural persons.

If you wish to seek an independent review of this decision, you have the right to contact the Office of the Ombudsman via www.ombudsman.parliament.nz.

How many measles cases were from Takapuna, Milford, Sunnynook, Castor Bay or Forrest Hill?

As above, this element of your request is declined under Sections 18(f) and 9(2)(a) of the Official Information Act.

If you wish to seek an independent review of this decision, you have the right to contact the Office of the Ombudsman via www.ombudsman.parliament.nz.

I trust that this information meets your requirements. Waitematā DHB, like other agencies across the state sector, supports the open disclosure of information to assist the public's 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 feel that there are good reasons why your response should not be made publicly available, we will be happy to consider this.

Yours sincerely



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Waitematā District Health Board