

30 March 2022



Dear 

**Re: OIA request – COVID-19 and pregnancy-related questions**

Thank you for your Official Information Act request received 10 March 2022 seeking information from Waitematā District Health Board (DHB) about the following:

1. **Could you let us know what is the percentage of women giving birth at Waitakere and North Shore hospitals who are COVID-19-positive for the week Monday 28 February to Tuesday 8 March?**
2. **Are you aware of an increase in the numbers of women giving birth at the two hospitals who are COVID-19-positive in the past few weeks? Are the hospitals struggling to manage the increase?**
3. **We understand there's been increasing numbers of pregnant women with COVID-19 turning up at emergency departments (EDs) in hospitals. Could Waitematā DHB comment on:**
  - **How many pregnant COVID-19-positive women turned up at ED at North Shore and Waitakere hospitals in the week March 3 to March 9?**
  - **What percentage do they make up of all ED patients at North Shore and Waitakere hospitals in the week 3 March to 9 March?**
  - **What percentage of them are unvaccinated or partially vaccinated?**
4. **We would like to get some information on the vaccination rates for pregnant women in Waitematā DHB. Are you able to help provide:**
  - **is Waitematā DHB collecting the data around vaccination rates of pregnant women? If not, why not?**
  - **what is the current 1st dose, 2nd dose, and booster vaccination rates for pregnant women in WDHB?**

On 14 March, we clarified that we would provide figures for 9 March only to allow for a quicker turnaround time of our response to your request.

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 more than 8,900 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. Could you let us know what is the percentage of women giving birth at Waitakere and North Shore hospitals who are COVID-19-positive, for 9 March?**

The percentage of women giving birth who were COVID-19-positive on 9 March 2022, was 4.8%

**2. Are you aware of an increase in the numbers of women giving birth at the two hospitals who are COVID-19-positive in the past few weeks? Are the hospitals struggling to manage the increase?**

The numbers of COVID-19-positive women presenting for care rose sharply around 28 February, in-line with the COVID-19 surge period. Maternity services adjusted the number of beds for COVID-19-positive patients to meet the increase. These numbers have since declined.

**3. We understand there's been increasing numbers of pregnant women with COVID-19 turning up at ED in hospitals. Could Waitematā DHB comment on:**

- **How many pregnant COVID-19-positive women turned up at ED at North Shore and Waitakere hospitals on 9 March?**

Three pregnant women were seen in the EDs of North Shore and Waitakere hospitals on 9 March.

- **What percentage did they make up of all ED patients at North Shore and Waitakere hospitals on 9 March?**

The proportion of pregnant women as a total number of ED patients at North Shore and Waitakere hospitals on 9 March was less than 1% of presentations.

- **What percentage of them are unvaccinated or partially vaccinated?**

The three women who presented were a mixture of double-vaccinated and fully vaccinated (i.e. had also had a booster).

**4. We would like to get some information on the vaccination rates for pregnant women in Waitematā DHB. Are you able to help provide:**

- **Is the DHB collecting the data around vaccination rates of pregnant women? If not, why not?**
- **What is the current 1st dose, 2nd dose, and booster vaccination rates for pregnant women in Waitematā DHB?**

Waitematā DHB collects data on the vaccination status of pregnant women in our care (i.e. not yet admitted but known to us as pregnant). The following information does not include the vaccination status of women who have not yet registered with us or those who are planning to give birth elsewhere. The vaccination rates of pregnant women known to us are as follows:

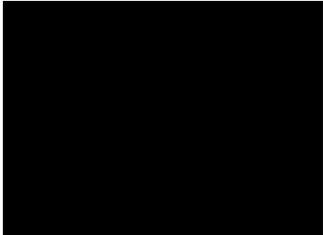
- 2% have had one dose
- 85% have had two doses
- 42% have had a booster.

I trust that this information is helpful.

Waitematā 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



**Executive Director Hospital Services  
Waitematā District Health Board**