

29 March 2019



E-mail: [REDACTED]

Dear Michelle,

Official Information Act (1982) Request

I write in response to your Official Information Act request, dated 05 March 2019, that we received on transfer from the Ministry of Health. You requested the following information:

- **Data on vaccination coverage and vaccination decline in your DHB area for the past four years (2015-2018) and so far this year (2019).** *I request this information in as much detail as possible e.g. broken down:*
 - *by location (town, area) within the DHB*
 - *by age, gender and vaccine*

I also request any copies of:

- **Reports, initiatives, discussion papers, advice, plans or policies created or received by your DHB around vaccination rates** *(for example: plans for how to address declines in rates, discussion of any communities that are hotspots for anti-vaxxers, etc.) This includes complaints or alerts of any active anti-vaccination communities or individuals.*

On 18 March, we advised you that we were transferring the first part of your request, (related to vaccination coverage data) to the Ministry of Health Immunisation Team, who maintain nationally consistent data on this matter.

Regarding your request for copies of DHB reports, initiatives, plans and policies around vaccination rates, we provide a range of information on our intentions and performance via our Annual Plans, including our Māori, Pacific and Asian Plans, and the CMDHB Annual Report. Regular reporting of performance against targets is provided to the Community & Public Health Advisory Committee (CPHAC) and to the CMDHB Board, as well as via updates to them from Auckland Regional Public Health Services, and responses to specific Board governance queries. We believe these documents provide the most comprehensive information on CM Health action on both vaccination and immunisation initiatives and outcomes.

We have noted key documents on the topic in the table (below):

Date	Document	reference
16 July 2014	Immunisation Strategy – Presented to	Pg 19-33 of CPHAC agenda -

Date	Document	reference
	<i>CPHAC for endorsement</i>	<i>July</i>
<i>17 December 2014</i>	<i>Minutes of CPHAC Meeting – notes on CMDHB Immunisation Strategy</i>	
<i>15 April 2015</i>	<i>Update on Vaccination of older people – Shingles and Whooping Cough</i>	<i>Page 32 of the CPHAC agenda - April</i>
<i>17 August 2016</i>	<i>Presentation by Plunket on WellChild initiatives – including immunisation</i>	<i>Page 80 of the CPHAC Agenda - August</i>
<i>18 October 2017</i>	<i>Update on Mumps Outbreak and response – Public Health team</i>	<i>Page 39 of the CPHAC agenda - October</i>
<i>29 November 2017</i>	<i>SLM Measures – quarterly updates – including initiatives for child health and ASH rates</i>	<i>Page 21 of the CPHAC agenda - November</i>
<i>07 November 2018</i>	<i>Vaccination – role of community hubs – Nurse Leader</i>	<i>Page 16 of the CPHAC agenda - November</i>
<i>20 February 2019</i>	<i>Māori Childhood Immunisation coverage - Māori Health and Public Health team</i>	<i>Page 117 of the Board Meeting agenda - February</i>

These documents are publicly available on our website:

<https://countiesmanukau.health.nz/about-us/governance/board-and-committees/>

Our health system performance on Immunisations Target for children is routinely reported, as a part of the agenda of each CPHAC meeting, and also in quarterly non-financial reporting to the Ministry of Health, which are shared with the Board.

In response to the 2017 Mumps outbreak in metro-Auckland, the CMDHB Public Health Physicians provided advice to the DHB on options for ongoing management of the response. This paper is provided (**attached**).

Work to improve the health of the children living in Counties Manukau is a core part of the District Health Boards work. More detailed information on the Counties Manukau DHB work to complete Health Needs Assessments and identify determinants of health for Child and Youth Health in our district since 2008 are available on our website, under Child and Youth.

<https://countiesmanukau.health.nz/about-us/performance-and-planning/health-status-documents/>

We work closely with School-based services, Lead Maternity Carers, Primary Care and NGO providers to increase coverage across the entire Immunisation Schedule for children and adults, including for targeted influenza vaccination of people at greatest risk (older adults, those with chronic health conditions etc).

Our policy is to strongly recommend that all DHB employees utilise our schedule of free vaccinations for staff members, across a range of infectious diseases, and to participate in the robust Occupational Health Screening programme. Each year, we encourage all DHB staff to receive the annual influenza vaccination.

In late 2018, there was a significant community backlash to a large Billboard installed near the Middlemore Hospital by an anti-vaccination group - Warnings against Vaccine Expectations (WAVES) placed on the southern motorway. The DHB Communications Team managed queries from several media organisations, and worked with our Chief Medical Officer to provide a statement that *"We do not support anti-vaccine messages. We promote vaccination as a proven step to prevent illness in both children and adults"*.

I trust this information satisfactorily answers your query. If you are not satisfied with this response you are entitled to seek a review of the response by the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act.

Please note that this response or an edited version of this may be published on the Counties Manukau DHB website.

Yours sincerely,



Fepulea'i Margie Apa
Chief Executive