

Public Health Services: measles
Proactive release 24 July 2019



12 July 2019

[REDACTED]
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[REDACTED]

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Official Information Act (1982) Request

I write in response to your Official Information Act request, dated 01 July 2019. You requested the following information:

- 1. The number of staff members employed by the DHB who have contracted measles between March 1 and July 1, 2019, broken down by the department/ ward they work in.**

CM Health has no record of any employees contracting measles between 01 March and 01 July, 2019. It is possible that an employee has had the measles, but the event has not been captured as part of the DHB records. Any employees having contact with a patient with measles will be further screened. All such employees have been confirmed as having immunity to the measles.

- 2. Copies of the DHB's position/ policy on staff vaccination.**

Our current processes are outlined in the Policy and procedure document. Briefly, pre-employment screening processes for all prospective clinical and non-clinical 'patient contact' staff include the assessment of immunity status to a vaccine preventable disease (as per the policy). For those 'non-immune at screening, the vaccine is offered and free of charge. If vaccination is declined, then the Line Manager is informed, so that they can consider and manage that risk. Occupational Health and Safety Services also conduct targeted health monitoring activity in clinical areas at higher risk of exposure, for example the Emergency Department, to ensure all staff are and remain protected against vaccine preventable diseases.

We also continuously re-iterate to all staff the importance of all Infection Prevention and Control 'Standard Precautions', to reduce the risk of exposure to transmittable diseases.

Attached are copies of the relevant documents:

- CM Health Policy: Occupational Immunity, Screening and Vaccination
- CM Health Policy: Pre-Employment Health Screening (PEHS)
- CM Health Procedure: Pre-Employment Health Screening (PEHS)

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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'F. Apa', is positioned above a thin blue horizontal line.

Fepulea'i Margie Apa
Chief Executive Officer
Counties Manukau Health