

Public Health : Measles cases 2019 - staff
Proactive Release: 22 January 2020

15 January 2020

9(2)(a)

Email: 9(2)(a)

Dear 9(2)(a),

Official Information Act (1982) Request

I write in response to your Official Information Act request, received by us on 08 January 2020. You requested the following information:

- **The number of people employed by the DHB who contracted measles between March 1 and December 31, 2019.**

As context for this response, Counties Manukau Health (CM Health) provides health and support services to people living in the Counties Manukau region (approx. 569,400 people). Our services are delivered via hospital, outpatient/ ambulatory and community-based models of care. We employ more than 7,500 staff, and see more than 118,000 people in our Emergency Department each year.

The CM Health Occupational Health and Safety Service confirm six staff – 2 clinical and 4 non-clinical had measles during this outbreak, with the first case in August 2019 and no new cases since September 2019. There were also two students on placement at CM Health who had measles.

During the 2019 Measles outbreak in Auckland there have been more than 1,154 measles cases notified in the Counties Manukau region. We note that measles is a notifiable illness, for which cases in New Zealand are reported under the Health Act. DHB employees are treated the same as other New Zealanders, including the management during the illness, and any relevant public health screening or contact tracing process.

We proactively support our staff to protect themselves and our community from the risk of all infectious and vaccine-preventable illnesses. Employees are offered (at no cost) seasonal influenza and scheduled vaccinations.

We have responded to a number of other requests for information on measles cases during 2019, including a response to you in July 2019 on numbers of employee cases between March and July 2019. These responses are publicly available:

- https://www.countiesmanukau.health.nz/about-us/official-information-act-requests/publicly-released-oias/?Keywords=measle&FromDate=&ToDate=&Category=&action_doOIASearch=Search

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', with a stylized flourish above the name.

Fepulea'i Margie Apa
Chief Executive Officer
Counties Manukau Health