

19th January 2022



Official Information Act Request for – Covid-19 Information

I write in response to your Official Information Act request received by us 16th December 2021 by way of partial transfer from the Ministry of Health (ref: H202116983), you requested the following information:

1. Costs to the DHBs for health care provided to the Covid-positive patients, including HDU and ICU, and –

The Ministry of Health advised you in their transfer that question 2 would be transferred to Auckland District Health Board for the Northern Region Health Coordination Centre to answer on behalf of the Northern Region as they are coordinating the regional Covid-19 response.

2. Costs of the incentives / bribes, music, food, and other draw-cards at testing and vaccination centres implemented to entice people to get tested and vaccinated”

Counties Manukau Health Response:

For context Counties Manukau Health (CM Health) employs over 8,500 staff and provides health and support services to people living in the Counties Manukau region (approx. 601,490 people). We see over 118,000 people in our Emergency Department each year, and over 2,000 visitors come through Middlemore Hospital daily.

Our services are delivered via hospital, outpatient, ambulatory and community-based models of care. We provide regional and supra-regional specialist services i.e. for orthopaedics, plastics, burns and spinal services. There are also several specialist services provided including tertiary surgical services, medical services, mental health and addiction services.

1. Costs to the DHBs for health care provided to the Covid-positive patients, including HDU and ICU

The total inpatient cost for healthcare provided to 359 Covid-19 positive patients including ICU and HDU level of care is \$4,820,940.00. This total cost is a standard way of providing costing figures and includes overheads, meaning there are direct patient costs from labs, radiology, wards, doctors, pharmacy and indirect/overheads costs from running the hospital such as lighting, cleaning, information technology, telephone, management, depreciation etc. This is the usual method used to provide cost for episodes of care.

I trust this information answers your request. You are entitled to seek a review of the response by the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or Freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that this response or an edited version of this may be published on the Counties Manukau Health website. If you consider there are good reasons why this response should not be made publicly available, we will be happy to consider this.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, enclosed in a thin black rectangular border. The signature is stylized and appears to be 'F. Margie Apa'.

Fepulea'i Margie Apa
Chief Executive Officer
Counties Manukau Health