

3 February 2022

s 9(2)(a)

s 9(2)(a)

Ref: H20217875

Tēnā koe s 9(2)(a)

### Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) to the Ministry of Health (the Ministry) on 17 December 2021 for information regarding COVID-19 and the Pfizer vaccine. I will respond to each part of your request in turn.

1. *Date that NZ first started discussion with Pfizer (or its other entities) on a covid-19 vaccine.*

The Government entered into a confidential information disclosure agreement with Pfizer in July 2020.

2. *Date that NZ entered into a supply agreement with Pfizer (or its other entities) for a covid-19 vaccine.*

The original supply agreement with Pfizer was executed on 22 December 2020.

3. *Who are the entities listed on the supply agreement noted in point 2 above?*

The entities listed on the supply agreement with Pfizer for the Comirnaty vaccine are as follows:

- Pfizer New Zealand Limited; and
  - The Sovereign in Right of New Zealand acting by and through the Director-General of the Ministry of Health (or their authorised delegate) and, solely in respect of indemnity obligations, acting by and through the Minister of Finance.
4. *The number of vaccine doses to be provided by Pfizer under the initial supply agreement noted above.*

The original supply agreement with Pfizer, executed on 22 December 2020, was for 1.5 million doses.

5. *Who paid/will pay for the vaccines in the supply agreement noted in point 2 and 3?*

The Pfizer vaccine has been funded by the Crown via Vote Health.

6. *Date that the first Pfizer vaccine arrived in NZ.*

The first batch of the Pfizer vaccine arrived in New Zealand on 15 February 2021. This is publicly available at: [www.beehive.govt.nz/release/first-batch-covid-19-vaccine-arrives-nz](http://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/first-batch-covid-19-vaccine-arrives-nz).

7. *Date the first Pfizer was administered to someone in NZ.*

The first dose of the Pfizer vaccine in New Zealand was administered on February 19, 2021.

8. *The date of any amendments (please list amendments and dates) to the original Pfizer supply agreement and number of doses to be provided under each supply agreement amendments.*

Amendments to the original Pfizer supply agreement, number of doses, and date of amendment are as follows:

- Pfizer APA Amendment (additional 8.5 million doses) – executed 5 March 2021
- Pfizer APA Amendment (275,000 doses from Spain) – executed 7 September 2021
- Pfizer APA Amendment (500,000 doses from Denmark) – executed 10 September 2021
- Pfizer APA Amendment (additional 4.7 million doses) – executed 22 October 2021
- Pfizer APA Amendment (to access 1.25 million paediatric doses as part of the 4.7 million) – executed 21 December 2021

An additional supply agreement was executed on 13 May 2021 for 100,000 COVAX doses for donation to the Pacific Islands.

*Information on Covid-19:*

1. *The date that covid-19 was first identified in NZ.*

The first case of COVID-19 was identified in New Zealand on 28 February 2020. This information is publicly available at: [www.health.govt.nz/news-media/media-releases/single-case-covid-19-confirmed-new-zealand](http://www.health.govt.nz/news-media/media-releases/single-case-covid-19-confirmed-new-zealand).

2. *The date that covid-19 delta strain was first identified in NZ.*

The first New Zealand Delta case was identified in a managed isolation and quarantine (MIQ) facility on 31 March 2021 (in MIQ). The first community case of Delta was identified on 17 August 2021.

3. *The date that covid-19 omicron strain was first identified in NZ.*

The first New Zealand Omicron case was identified on 16 December 2021. This was an MIQ arrival who entered New Zealand on 10 December. This information is publicly available at: [www.health.govt.nz/news-media/media-releases/first-omicron-case-detected-new-zealand](http://www.health.govt.nz/news-media/media-releases/first-omicron-case-detected-new-zealand).

*Information relating to cases:*

4. *Current active cases of covid-19 as of today's date.*
5. *The definition of what determines an active case.*

This information is publicly available at: [www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-data-and-statistics/covid-19-current-cases](http://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-data-and-statistics/covid-19-current-cases).

6. *The number of total hospitalizations related to having covid-19 as the specific reason for hospitalization.*

7. *The total number of hospitalizations related specifically for covid-19 being the reason for hospitalization for the below dates:*
- a. *From the date identified in point 1 above to the date identified in point 2 above*
  - b. *From the date identified in point 2 above to the date identified in point 3 above*
  - c. *From the date in point 2 above to the 11 November 2021*
  - d. *From 11 November 2021 to 15 December 2021 split out on a weekly basis.*

These parts of your request are for private medical information and are therefore refused under section 9(2)(a) of the Act to protect the privacy of natural persons. The Ministry has considered the countervailing public interest in release in making this decision and consider that it does not outweigh the need to withhold at this time.

Please also note that while the Act enables people to request official information from the Ministry, it only applies to information it holds. There is no obligation to create information or compile information it does not hold in order to respond to requests. Therefore, part 7 of your request is also refused under section 18(g)(i) of the Act as the information requested is not held in this form.

The Ministry provides daily updates on the number of people hospitalised with COVID-19 at: [www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-news-and-media-updates](http://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-news-and-media-updates).

*Information relating to deaths:*

8. *Deaths to date within NZ specifically caused by covid-19.*

Of the 26 deaths prior to the current outbreak, all deaths were classified as due to COVID-19.

The Ministry has published information about the vaccination status of COVID-19 related deaths in the current outbreak at: [www.health.govt.nz/news-media/news-items/further-information-deaths-associated-covid-19](http://www.health.govt.nz/news-media/news-items/further-information-deaths-associated-covid-19). Information on deaths that have occurred since this article was published is withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act, to protect the privacy of natural persons.

9. *The definition of what is deemed a covid-19 death.*

'COVID-19 deaths' as reported in the daily updates by the Ministry include all cases that died who were classified as an active case of COVID-19 at the time of death. In some of these cases, the underlying cause of death may have been unrelated to COVID-19.

*Information relating to risky people:*

10. *How many "at risk people" there are in Auckland with regards to covid-19.*

This part of your request is refused under section 18(g)(i) of the Act, as the information requested is not held by the Ministry and there are no grounds for believing it is held by another agency subject to the Act.

11. *The definition of what determines someone to be "at risk".*

Information on who is at higher risk of severe illness from COVID-19 is available at: [www.covid19.govt.nz/prepare-and-stay-safe/about-covid-19/people-at-higher-risk-of-severe-illness-from-covid-19/](http://www.covid19.govt.nz/prepare-and-stay-safe/about-covid-19/people-at-higher-risk-of-severe-illness-from-covid-19/).

*Information relating to vaccinations:*

12. *The total number of people in NZ who have had 1 dose of any covid vaccine approved by Medsafe/Ministry of Health up until this date.*

13. *The total number of people in NZ who have had 2 doses of any covid vaccine approved by Medsafe/Ministry of Health up until this date.*

14. *The total number of people in NZ who have had 3 doses of any covid vaccine approved by Medsafe/Ministry of Health up until this date.*

This information is publicly available at: [www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-data-and-statistics/covid-19-vaccine-data](http://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-data-and-statistics/covid-19-vaccine-data).

15. *The total number of people who have had adverse events due to any covid vaccine approved by Medsafe/ Ministry of Health.*

Reports summarising the number and type of adverse events following immunisation (AEFI) reported with COVID-19 vaccines are published at: [www.medsafe.govt.nz/COVID-19/vaccine-report-overview.asp](http://www.medsafe.govt.nz/COVID-19/vaccine-report-overview.asp).

16. *The Medsafe/Ministry of Health definition of an adverse event with relation to a vaccine.*

An adverse event following immunisation (AEFI) is defined by Medsafe as 'an untoward medical event which follows immunisation and does not necessarily have a causal relationship with the administration of the vaccine. The adverse event may be an unfavourable or unintended sign, abnormal laboratory finding, symptom or disease.'

I trust this information fulfils your request. Under section 28(3) of the Act, you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review any decisions made under this request. The Ombudsman may be contacted by email at: [info@ombudsman.parliament.nz](mailto:info@ombudsman.parliament.nz) or by calling 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā



Jan Torres  
**Acting Manager, OIA Services**  
**Office of the Director-General**