



26 September 2023

§ 9(2)(a)

By email: § 9(2)(a)
Ref: H2023031276

Tēnā koe § 9(2)(a)

Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) for information regarding COVID-19. Your request was transferred from the Minister of Health's Office to Manatū Hauora (the Ministry of Health) on 30 August 2023. Each part of your request is responded to below:

1) Please provide me with the scientific data/research the NZ government used to determine the 2-metre physical distancing guidelines during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Appended to this letter is Document 1 which lists evidence used to support advice on physical distancing guidelines during the COVID-19 pandemic.

2) Please provide me with any and all testing of the Pfizer Covid-19 vaccine (both emergency use authorization and subsequent versions) the NZ Government conducted themselves to determine its safety and effectiveness.

I have interpreted your question to mean please provide me with the clinical trials the NZ Government conducted on Comirnaty (the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine). Only Pfizer, the company who makes Comirnaty, is responsible for doing the initial studies on efficacy and safety for gaining approval in New Zealand. Therefore, the information you have requested does not exist. Information relating to the vaccine approval process can be accessed at: <https://www.medsafe.govt.nz/COVID-19/vaccine-approval-process.asp>.

3) Please provide me with the scientific data/research the NZ government used to determine the effectiveness of masks (surgical, N95, et al) to prevent the transmission of Covid-19 and used to enforce the wearing of face masks. For the avoidance of doubt, the data should be from "Double-blind, peer-reviewed, studies that DO NOT have any conflicts of interest within the pharmaceutical industry.

Also appended to this letter is Document 2 which lists evidence used to advise on the effectiveness of masks to prevent transmission of COVID-19 and determine mask wearing guidance.

Both documents within scope of your request are itemised in the table in Appendix 1 and copies of the documents are enclosed.

I trust this information fulfils your request. If you wish to discuss any aspect of your request with us, including this decision, please feel free to contact the OIA Services Team on: oiagr@health.govt.nz.

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 or by calling 0800 802 602.

Please note that this response, with your personal details removed, may be published on the Manatū Hauora website at: www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/information-releases/responses-official-information-act-requests.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. Old', written in a cursive style.

Dr Andrew Old
Deputy Director-General
Public Health Agency | Te Pou Hauora Tūmatanui

Appendix 1: List of documents for release

#	Date	Document details	Decision on release
1	19 September 2023	Listed evidence used to provide advice on physical distancing	Released in full.
2	19 September 2023	Listed evidence used to provide advice on mask wearing	

Ambatipudi, M., et al. (2021). Risk quantification for SARS-CoV-2 infection through airborne transmission in university settings, medRxiv.

Atherstone, C., et al. (2021). "SARS-CoV-2 Transmission Associated with High School Wrestling Tournaments - Florida, December 2020-January 2021." MMWR. Morbidity and mortality weekly report 70(4): 141-143 DOI: <https://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm7004e4>

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