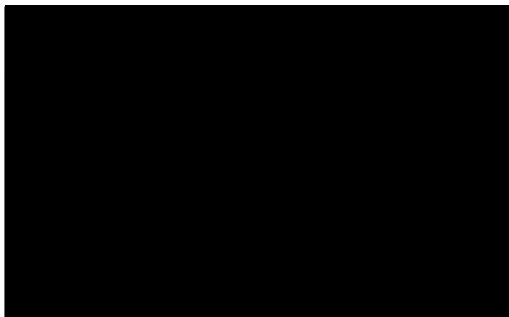


1 October 2019

Email: [ailsac@adhb.govt.nz](mailto:ailsac@adhb.govt.nz)



**Re: Official Information Act request – Measles and vaccination data**

I refer to your Official Information Act request dated 6 September 2019 to Waitemata DHB and partially transferred to Auckland DHB on 12 September 2019 requesting the following information:

- 1. An outline of the procedure for gathering and recording the vaccination status of a patient presenting with measles infection. In particular, if a patient remembers having had a vaccine in the past but cannot recall the date/year, how is this officially recorded?**
- 2. The measles strains that have been identified via testing, including any vaccine strains, and the incidence rates for each.**
- 3. A break down of the number of cases recorded as fully vaccinated (two or more MMRs), partially vaccinated (one MMR), not-vaccinated, unknown status, including age ranges.**
- 4. The number of hospital admissions broken down into length of stay (hours, days).**  
Waitemata DHB will respond to question 4.

I am responding from Auckland District Health Board (ADHB) as the DHB responsible for Auckland Regional Public Health Service (ARPHS).

ARPHS provides public health services to all three metro Auckland District Health Boards – Waitematā District Health Board, Counties Manukau Health and Auckland District Health Board, and the populations they serve. ARPHS's core role is to protect and promote public health.

We have provided the information to your questions below.

1. When a person with measles is notified to ARPHS, information about previous vaccination with a measles-containing vaccine is gathered in several different ways. For a vaccination to be recorded as 'documented', ARPHS requires one of the following forms of evidence:

- Firstly the National Immunisation Register (NIR) is checked.
- Secondly, ARPHS asks notifying health practitioners about vaccination status on the notification form. This captures people who may have received a measles vaccine prior to the NIR's existence, where it was recorded (with the date and batch number) by their family doctor in clinical notes. If there is no date on the form, vaccination status is listed as 'unknown'.
- Thirdly, ARPHS staff members ask the person or their parent/caregiver for evidence that they may hold. This is usually a Well Child/Tamariki Ora/Plunket book, or an overseas vaccination record. We ask for photocopies of records to be emailed to us before they are recorded as documented.

If there is only a verbal account of a measles-containing vaccine having been given, this is recorded separately (see question 3 below), and is not included in our documented vaccination statistics.

2. Sample testing for genotype (strain) is undertaken where there is a clinical or surveillance indication, but not for every confirmed case. Please note for the strain table; cases are confirmed and probable for B3/D8 and 'not a case' for Vaccine strain. Notification rates by strain are per 10 000 people using an interpolated 2019 estimated resident population.

Strain	Conf/prob	Not a Case	Notification rate/ 10 000 population
B3	55	0	0.3
D8	69	0	0.4
Vaccine strain	0	58	0.3

3. Please note for immunisation status, case definition is confirmed and probable.

MMR age grp	Info source 1 <sup>st</sup> dose	Info source 2 <sup>nd</sup> dose	Cases
0 yrs	Not applicable	Not applicable	129
1-4 yrs	Documented	Not applicable	35
1-4 yrs	Declined	Not applicable	1
1-4 yrs	Not entered	Not applicable	128
5+ yrs	Documented	Documented	40
5+ yrs	Documented	Parent / Caregiver Recall	1
5+ yrs	Documented	Declined	1
5+ yrs	Documented	Not entered	24
5+ yrs	Parent / Caregiver Recall	Documented	1
5+ yrs	Parent / Caregiver Recall	Parent / Caregiver Recall	17
5+ yrs	Parent / Caregiver Recall	Not entered	14
5+ yrs	Not entered	Not entered	558

The data for question two and three is for the period 01 January 2019 to 06 September 2019.

I trust this information answers your questions.

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](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that this response, or an edited version of this response, may be published on the Auckland DHB website.

Yours faithfully



Ailsa Claire, OBE  
Chief Executive

