

1 February 2021

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[REDACTED]
By email: [REDACTED]
Ref: H202100064

Dear [REDACTED]

Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) on 4 January 2021 for:

- "1. How many NZers recieved the flu vaccine during the 2nd quarter 2020*
- 2. How many of these subsequently tested positive fo Covid-19."*

Please note that given the COVID-19 virus is different to the influenza virus, the Ministry of Health (the Ministry) would not expect any direct correlation between the influenza vaccination and any harm caused by COVID-19.

Between 3 April and 3 July 2020, 717,417 people were recorded on the National Immunisation Register (NIR) as being vaccinated against the influenza virus. An additional 373,147 influenza vaccinations were recorded before the beginning of the second quarter of 2020, as the influenza immunisation programme began earlier than usual on 18 March 2020. This brings the total amount of influenza vaccinations recorded to 1,090,564.

Information regarding COVID-19 test results and influenza vaccinations is held in two separate systems, which are not able to share data. As such, this part of your request is refused under section 18(g) of the Act as the Ministry is unable to report on the number of people who received an influenza vaccine and subsequently tested positive for COVID-19.

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 or by calling 0800 802 602.

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

Yours sincerely



Deborah Woodley
Deputy Director-General
Population Health and Prevention