

21 October 2021

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[REDACTED]

By email: [REDACTED]
Ref: H202114749

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), your request was transferred from the Office of Hon Chris Hipkins, Minister for COVID-19 Response to the Ministry of Health (the Ministry) on 20 October 2021.

I shall respond to each part of your request in turn.

1. Can you please advise the approved legal status of the Pfizer vaccine and if it is still in experimental ?

The Pfizer COVID-19 Comirnaty vaccine is not experimental. Medsafe has granted Pfizer New Zealand Ltd provisional consent under section 23 of the Medicines Act 1981. The Gazette notice authorising the sale, supply and use of the vaccine is available at:
www.medsafe.govt.nz/COVID-19/Comirnaty-Gazette-Jun-2021.pdf.

2. Can you please provide details and assurances that the vaccine has been fully and independently tested against control groups and the subsequent outcomes of those tests?

Please refer to the following information in response to this part of your request:

- vaccine approval process: www.medsafe.govt.nz/COVID-19/status-of-applications.asp.
- Vaccine clinical trials and testing: www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-vaccines/covid-19-vaccine-clinical-trials-and-testing.
- The results of the clinical trials have been published in the New England Journal of Medicine here: <https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMoa2110345> and <https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/nejmoa2034577>.

3. Can you please advise the entire list of contents of the vaccine I am to receive and if any are toxic to the body?

The full list of ingredients can be found here at point
2: www.medsafe.govt.nz/profs/Datasheet/c/comirnatyinj.pdf.

There is further information on the Ministry website at: www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-vaccines/covid-19-how-vaccine-works#ingredients

4. Can you please fully advise of all the adverse reactions associated with this vaccine since its introduction?

The known adverse reactions are listed in the consumer medicine information and the data sheet available at: www.medsafe.govt.nz/COVID-19/status-of-applications.asp.

Information regarding adverse reactions can be found at: www.medsafe.govt.nz/COVID-19/vaccine-report-overview.asp

5. Can you please confirm that the vaccine you are advocating is NOT experimental mRNA gene altering therapy?

The vaccine is not experimental mRNA gene altering therapy. There is more information about how mRNA vaccines work at: www.medsafe.govt.nz/COVID-19/mRNA-vaccines.asp.

6. Can you please confirm that I will not be under any duress/coercion (as defined by International Medical Law, and International Law) from yourselves as the Government, in compliance with the Nuremberg Code 1947

Information about COVID-19 vaccination and employment on Employment New Zealand's website, here: www.employment.govt.nz/leave-and-holidays/other-types-of-leave/coronavirus-workplace/covid-19-vaccination-and-employment/.

In New Zealand, all health and disability providers, including those undertaking research, are subject to the Code of Health and Disability Services Consumers' Rights which can be found at: www.hdc.org.nz/media/5544/hdc-consumers-rights-online.pdf. Anyone who considers they have had their rights breached may lay a complaint with the Health and Disability Commissioner. There is more information about the code and the Commissioner's work at: www.hdc.org.nz.

7. Can you please advise me of the likely risk of fatality, should I be unfortunate enough to contract Covid 19 and the likelihood of recovery?

The risk of fatality after COVID-19 infection is dependent upon many factors. In particular, a person's age and any underlying conditions such as kidney, heart and severe lung disease and the ability of the health system to respond to cases.

The number of cases of COVID-19 reported worldwide on the 6 September 2021 was 221,558,109 with 4,581,963 deaths. Giving a mortality rate of slightly more than two percent. Compared to a person aged 20-39, a person who is 85 years or older has a risk which is 600 times higher. Vaccination markedly reduces the risk of becoming ill or dying from COVID-19. There is more information about COVID-19 cases worldwide at reputable websites including:

- The World Health Organization: <https://covid19.who.int/>
- University of Oxford/Our World in Data: <https://ourworldindata.org/coronavirus-data#>

8. Can you please advise me if I were to experience any adverse reactions is the manufacturer of the vaccine liable? If the manufacturer isn't liable is the Ministry of Education responsible & liable as it is their request that I have the vaccine in order to carry on my employment?

As New Zealand operates a no-fault accident compensation system, there is no requirement to indemnify employers and/or healthcare providers. The Accident Compensation Corporation (ACC) provides assistance and cover in these situations: www.covid.immune.org.nz/faq/will-acc-provide-cover-covid-19-vaccination-injuries.

9. In the event that I should have to decline the offer of vaccination, please confirm that it will not compromise my rights as a human living in New Zealand, and that I will not suffer prejudice and discrimination as a result?

In response to this part of your request it is important to note that the Act allows people to ask for official information. It does not require the Ministry to create new information, compile information it does not hold, or in the case of this part of your request, to prove an opinion or comment on a hypothetical statement. This part of your request is therefore refused under section 18(g) of the Act on the grounds that the information requested is not held by the Ministry.

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.

Nāku noa, nā



Nick Allan
Manager OIA Services
Office of the Director General