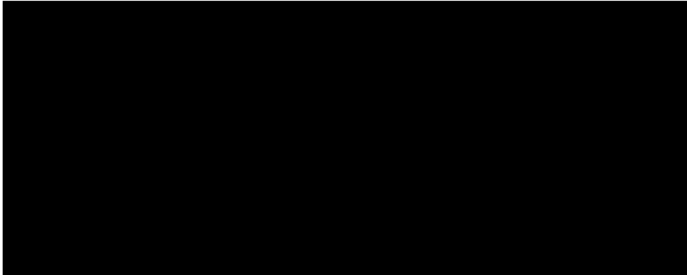


30 AUG 2019



Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request of 6 August 2019 under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) for:

"Hi there, I would like clarification of the Ministry of Health's advice relating to the administration of the Priorix (MMR) vaccine to individuals with a history of severe (i.e. anaphylaxis) allergic reaction to egg. The MoH webpage (<https://www.health.govt.nz/your-health/conditions-and-treatments/diseases-and-illnesses/measles>) refers to the New Zealand consumer medicine information sheet provided on the MedSafe website. The information sheet advises that patients should NOT receive the vaccine if "you have/your child has ever had a severe allergic reaction to eggs or anything that contained eggs". The same MoH webpage also refers to the immunisation advisory centre, which advises that "Neither egg allergy nor anaphylaxis are contraindications for receipt of the MMR vaccine" (<https://www.immune.org.nz/sites/default/files/resources/Written%20Resources/AdministrationMMRQA20170817V01Final.pdf>) and the "kidshealth" website, which advises that "People with an allergy to egg CAN have MMR." (<https://www.kidshealth.org.nz/measles-immunisation>). I understand that the risk of allergic reaction in the general population receiving the Priorix vaccine is 1/1000. I am wondering if you are aware of any peer-reviewed, published studies which have examined the risks in patients with a history of anaphylaxis/severe egg allergy? I am asking out of genuine interest, as I wish to make a truly informed decision about vaccinating my child who has multiple severe food allergies (including egg)."

As per section 11.6.3 of the Immunisation Handbook 2017 (second edition); the measles and mumps components of the measles mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine are manufactured in chick embryo cell culture, so there may be traces of egg protein in the vaccine. However, egg allergy, including anaphylaxis, is not a contraindication to measles-containing vaccines and various studies have confirmed that children with egg allergy can be vaccinated safely.

The references the Ministry used to form the published advice are listed below:

- American Academy of Pediatrics. 2015. Measles. In: Kimberlin DW, Brady MT, Jackson MA, et al (eds). Red Book: 2015 Report of the Committee on Infectious Diseases (30th edition). Elk Grove Village, IL: American Academy of Pediatrics.

- James JM, Burks W, Roberson P, et al. 1995. Safe administration of measles vaccine to children allergic to eggs. *New England Journal of Medicine* 332(19): 1262–6.
- Khakoo GA, Lack G. 2000. Recommendations for using MMR vaccine in children allergic to eggs. *British Medical Journal* 320(7239): 929–32.
- Fox A, Lack G. 2003. Egg allergy and MMR vaccination. *British Journal of General Practice* 53(495): 801–02. URL: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1314715/pdf/14601358.pdf> (accessed 7 November 2016).
- Clark AT, Skypala I, Leech SC, et al. 2010. British Society for Allergy and Clinical Immunology guidelines for the management of egg allergy. *Clinical & Experimental Allergy* 40(8): 1116–29. URL: <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1365-2222.2010.03557.x/epdf> (accessed 9 November 2016).

The Immunisation Handbook 2017 is publicly available on the Ministry of Health (the Ministry) website: <https://www.health.govt.nz/publication/immunisation-handbook-2017>.

I trust that this information fulfils your request. Under section 28 of the Act, you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review any decisions made under this request.

Please note that this response, with your personal details removed, may be published on the Ministry's website.

Yours sincerely



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