

[REDACTED]
Ref: H202000031

Dear [REDACTED]

Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request for information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) on 01 January 2020. On 16 January your request was refined to:

"Please could you provide details of any New Zealand program related to this US link <https://www.hrsa.gov/sites/default/files/hrsa/cicp/cicpfactsheet.pdf>
1. public health countermeasures, and what policies and processes are in place, against any health threat as suggested in the document in the link
2. what situation would need to exist for these policies to be enforced
3. whether we have a similar compensation program outside of ACC which would deal with injuries resulting from such a measure?
4. If not would ACC also cover these potential injuries."

I will respond to your queries in turn:

- 1. Public health countermeasures, and what policies and processes are in place, against any health threat as suggested in the document in the link*

New Zealand has the following policies and processes against a public health threat.

The Communicable Disease control manual provides national protocols that describe the standard practice public health services would normally follow in the prevention and control of notifiable communicable diseases. The Communicable Disease control manual is available at: <https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/communicable-disease-control-manual>

In the event of a health emergency, there are emergency plans and procedures in place. The Ministry has developed the *National Health Emergency Plan* (NHEP, 2015) which provides the overall framework for the health and disability sector in planning for, responding to and recovering from health-related risks and consequences of significant hazards in New Zealand.

The NHEP is supported by a number of sub-plans, including the *New Zealand Influenza Pandemic Plan: A framework for action* (NZIPAP, 2017). The NZIPAP includes information on the range of public health measures that could be utilised in the event of an influenza pandemic (or other respiratory-type pandemics) and under what circumstances they may be applied. These measures include some of what is described as 'countermeasures' within the document you provided with your request, such as vaccines and use of antiviral medication.

There are supporting NHEP protocols and procedures which describe usage of vaccines and antivirals, including the *H5N1 Pre-Pandemic Vaccine Usage Policy* (2013) and the *National Reserve Supplies Management and Usage Policies* (2013).

The NHEP, its sub-plans and supporting policies are available on the emergency management section of the Ministry of Health website: <https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/emergency-management>.

2. *What situation would need to exist for these policies to be enforced*

The plans and policies outlined above describe the situations in which any measures would be applied. For example, the NZIPAP has a six-phase strategy. The plan describes what actions would be considered at each phase, who is responsible for the actions and under what authority.

3. *Whether we have a similar compensation program outside of ACC which would deal with injuries resulting from such a measure?*

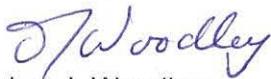
New Zealand does not have a similar compensation program outside of ACC.

4. *If not would ACC also cover these potential injuries*

This part of your request has been transferred to ACC. They will respond to you in due course.

I trust this information fulfils your request. You have the right, under section 28 of the Act, to ask the Ombudsman to review any decisions made under this request. Please note that this response, with any personal details removed, may be published on the Ministry website.

Yours sincerely



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Population Health and Prevention