

██████████
By email: ██████████
Ref: H202003790

Dear ██████████

Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) on 25 May 2020 for:

*"Can you please tell me how many of the people who allegedly died of Covid 19 had the flu vaccination within 5 years prior?
And can you please tell me how many suicides have occurred while we were in lockdown."*

The Ministry of Health (the Ministry) does not hold information on the number of individuals who have passed away as a result of COVID-19 and whether they have received the flu vaccine, as it has not been recorded or reported on. For this reason, your request is refused under section 18(g) of the Act as the information is not held by the Ministry or another agency subject to the Act.

Your request for the number of suicides that have occurred during Alert Level 4 is refused under section 18(g) of the Act as this information is not held by the Ministry yet or another agency subject to the Act. It is expected that the 2020 mortality data will become provisionally available in December 2022.

Fact of death information can be requested from the Ministry's Data Services team via data-enquiries@health.govt.nz within about 6-8 weeks of the period of interest. For deaths occurring in March or April, we would expect to see these death registrations in our data in approximately May - June. However it might be later than this, as during the lockdown period many funerals have been delayed. This will result in a delay in the death being registered, as funeral directors generally register a death after the cremation or burial.

Cause of death information is available from the Ministry, which can be requested also from Data Services. After the Ministry receives fact of death information, there is a 6-12 months process to assign a cause of death code for most deaths.

As all suicides are investigated by the Coroner there can be up to a two year delay before statistical data is available on suicide as the cause of death. This is to allow enough time for a Coroner's inquest to take place and a final ruling to be determined.

Under section 28 of the Act, you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review any decisions made under this request.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Zoe Royden". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Zoe Royden
Manager (Acting) OIA Services
Office of the Director-General