

9 December 2020

s 9(2)(a)

By email: s 9(2)(a)
Ref: H202008418

Dear s 9(2)(a)

Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) on 23 November 2020 for information pertaining to COVID-19, Vaccines and 1080.

Information in response to each part of your request is as follows.

*“Questions about covid 19 since level 4 lockdown to today.
What is the official number of covid 19 positive cases and negative cases in Aotearoa nz?
What is the official number for cured cases of covid 19 in Aotearoa nz?
What is the official number of covid deaths?
how many covid 19 deaths tested positive for covid 19 and how many deaths tested
negative for covid 19?”*

All information pertaining to COVID-19 in New Zealand can be found publicly available on the New Zealand Unite Against COVID-19 website: <https://covid19.govt.nz/>.

“Is the (n) coronavirus 19 a severe case of pneumonia as stated by Wuhan and World Health Organisation true?”

COVID-19 can cause pneumonia alongside many other symptoms. However, the Ministry of Health (the Ministry) does not hold any information pertaining to the World Health Organisation’s or Wuhan’s commentary outlined in this part of your request. As such, this part of your request is refused under section 18(g) of the Act.

“Why is hydroxychloroquine not being used as a cure for covid when its proven to work?”

The benefits of Hydroxychloroquin did not demonstrate an overall benefit in the treatment of COVID-19, as indicated by the World Health Organisation. For further information about this please see the below link:

<https://www.who.int/news-room/q-a-detail/coronavirus-disease-covid-19-hydroxychloroquine>.

“What’s the survival and recovery rate of the (n)coronavirus 19”

The survival rate of COVID-19 varies across different groups and settings but is approximately around 97-99%. The median recovery rate of COVID-19 is approximately two weeks for mild cases and approximately three to six weeks for severe cases.

“Questions about Vaccines

Is the covid 19 vaccine safety tested on humans? and if so what are the harmful short term and long term effects of the vaccine?”

Currently, no COVID-19 vaccine has been approved for use in New Zealand. All vaccines must undergo testing in humans in clinical trials to understand their efficacy and safety. Information regarding these clinical trials can be found publicly available on the United States National Library of Medicine’s website: <https://clinicaltrials.gov/>. The known adverse effects of medicines including vaccines can be found in the data sheet published on the Medsafe website <https://www.medsafe.govt.nz/Medicines/infoSearch.asp>.

“Are there any safety measures put in place to ensure the future safety of victims that may suffer from reverse side effects or even crippling side effects due to the covid vaccine?”

There has been no COVID-19 vaccine approved for use in New Zealand. Moreover, any vaccine must meet international safety and quality standards before it will receive Medsafe approval.

“If the covid 19 vaccine harms anyone, will they be covered by the government for violating Human health standards?”

Treatment injuries associated with the administration of vaccines are covered by the Accident Compensation Corporation (ACC) New Zealand.

“Is the Covid 19 vaccine needed if “hydroxychloroquine” remedies covid 19 and if there is a recovery and survival rate higher than measles and Ebola when these 2 deadly diseases have a lower recovery rate than covid 19? Is the vaccine needed if there is a high survival and recovery rate?”

The Ministry relies on reputable sources of information in order to tailor its COVID-19 response. There has been no compelling evidence found to suggest that hydroxychloroquine is useful in the response to COVID-19. Hydroxychloroquine can cause significant adverse reactions in some people. Furthermore, the vaccine is indeed required in an effort to safeguard the health of all people.

“What are all the ingredients in children’s vaccines.

The ingredients of all approved medicines can be found by searching the product application database on the Medsafe website: <https://www.medsafe.govt.nz/regulatory/dbsearch.asp>.

*What is the ingredient “MRC-5 “ harvested from?
What is the ingredient “WI 38” harvested from?”*

The Ministry does not hold any information pertaining to this part of your request. As such, this part of your request is refused under section 18(g) of the Act, as the information requested is not held by the Ministry and I have no reason to believe it is held by another agency, Minister, or organisation subject to the Act. However, you may be interested to know that you can find further information on MRC-5 and WI-38 publicly available via <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/MRC-5> and <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WI-38> respectively.

“Questions about 1080.

Are there any cases of humans being effected or harmed due to 1080 poison in Aotearoa nz?”

The Ministry has received one notification regarding 1080 in 2019 that came through our Hazardous Substances Disease and Injury Reporting Tool notification system: <https://www.ehinz.ac.nz/assets/Factsheets/Hazardous-Substance-notifications-October-2020.pdf>. You may also be interested to know that you can access more information about 1080 exposure in the workplace via the WorkSafe website: <https://www.worksafe.govt.nz/about-us/news-and-media/worksafe-new-zealand-and-1080/>.

“Is 1080 consumption and handling of residue harmful and deadly to humans?”

Please note that in large significant quantities residue of any poison would be harmful and deadly to humans.

“Can 1080 be carried and transferred through water ways and plants?”

No, 1080 is highly soluble in water and as such would not be able to be transferred through water ways. For information pertaining to the transfer of 1080 through plants, you can find information publicly available via the Department of Conservation website: <https://www.doc.govt.nz/1080-reassessment>.

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kelvin Watson', is displayed on a white background.

Kelvin Watson
Group Manager, Immunisation Testing and Supply
COVID-19 Health System Response