

24 March 2022

s 9(2)(a)

By email: s 9(2)(a)
Ref: H202201657

Tēnā koe s 9(2)(a)

Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) to the Ministry of Health (the Ministry) on 19 February 2022 for information regarding temporary medical exemptions (TMEs) to vaccination against COVID-19. I will respond to each part of your request in turn.

*Information detailing the exact amount of medical exemptions granted by the Ministry of Health for Covid-19 vaccinations.
Please could you supply them in two categories if possible? I would like to know how many were temporary exemptions and how many are permanent exemptions.*

The Ministry does not grant permanent medical exemptions for COVID-19 vaccination. A granted TME is time specific. This means that they are only valid for a specific time, up to a maximum of six months. For example, you may be granted a TME when recovering from a condition, while you are waiting for an alternate vaccine to become available, or when you need specialised supportive care arrangements to be vaccinated. Vaccinations should be completed as soon as clinically safe within the exemption timeframe.

If the exemption is due to expire and or there is new clinical information available, the applicant will be required to reapply for a new exemption.

As of 16 March 2022, a total of 777 TMEs have been granted.

Please could I also request the information on how many Covid-19 vaccination exemption applications have been declined.

As of 16 March 2022, a total of 813 TME applications had been declined by the Ministry of Health.

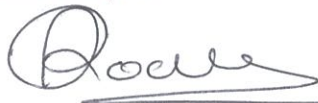
Please also could you tell me if any other types of vaccinations are mandated?

No other vaccinations are required by law. Employers, however, may require immunisation with specific vaccines.

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.

Nāku noa, nā



Astrid Koornneef
Director
National Immunisation Programme