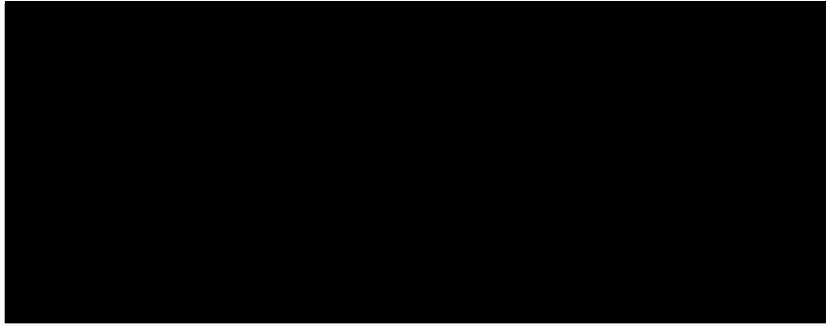




26 June 2020



Re Official Information Request – Hospitalisation costs during COVID

I refer to your official information request dated 1 June 2020 requesting the following information:

I am requesting the following information under the Official Information Act:

- 1. The total cost to the DHB from Covid-19 hospitalisations, between February 28 and May 27, broken down by the reasons for the costs;**
- 2. The total number of Covid-19 patient admissions between February 28 and May 27, broken down by whether they were in HDU, ICU or general/medical beds;**
- 3. The total number of bed days related to Covid-19 patients;**
- 4. The total number of Covid-19 patients who required the support of a ventilator while in hospital under DHB care.**

I am responding on behalf of the metro-Auckland DHBs (Waitematā, Auckland, and Counties Manukau). These three DHBs plus Northland DHB have activated the Northern Region Health Coordination Centre (NRHCC) to manage the COVID-19 health sector response.

Northland DHB is responding separately.

NRHCC brings together expertise from the four DHBs, Auckland Regional Public Health Service (ARPHS), the Northland DHB Public Health Unit, primary care, Auckland Council Emergency Response (welfare) and a regional Clinical Technical Advisory Group.

Each of the DHBs also has a local Incident Management Team which is represented on the NRHCC.

The answers to your questions from the metro Auckland DHBs are below, by DHB.

Auckland DHB RESPONSE

1. The total cost to the DHB from Covid-19 hospitalisations, between February 28 and May 27, broken down by the reasons for the costs
 - The estimated cost for these admissions is \$217,000.
2. The total number of Covid-19 patient admissions between February 28 and May 27, broken down by whether they were in HDU, ICU or general/medical beds;
 - 11 admissions of patients positive or probable for COVID-19 (and not considered 'recovered' at the time of admission). Eight were confirmed positive for COVID-19. Patients presenting to the emergency department that were not subsequently admitted to an inpatient bed have not been included.
3. The total number of bed days related to Covid-19 patients;
 - In total the 11 admissions equalled 132 bed days.
4. The total number of Covid-19 patients who required the support of a ventilator while in hospital under DHB care.
 - No patients were admitted to a HDU or ITU environment during their stay and no patients were supported with a ventilator.

Waitematā DHB RESPONSE

1. The total cost to the DHB from COVID-19 hospitalisations, between February 28 and May 27:
 - \$604,476.99
 - The most common reason for costs incurred for the treatment of COVID-19-positive patients are as follows:

Costs	
ICU - Hours	GR-/TD Mobile Chest X-ray
Bed days	Triage 3 - Admitted
Doctor - day	Pharmacy - Hour
Pharmacy Medication	Triage 2 - Admitted
Inpatient - Minutes	Atypical Pneumonia
ADU - Hour triage 2	Doctor day daycase
Physiotherapy	Speech-Language Therapy
Geriatric Other / SW	Occupational Therapy
Pharmacy Day (low cost)	Influenza A PCR
ADU - Hour triage 3	Blood gases

2. The total number of COVID-19 patient admissions between February 28 and May 27, broken down by whether they were in HDU, ICU or general/medical beds.
 - There were 11 COVID-19-positive patient admissions with two of these patients requiring care in HDU/ ICU.
3. The total number of bed days related to Covid-19 patients.
 - 177
4. The total number of Covid-19 patients who required the support of a ventilator while in hospital under DHB care.
 - One person required ventilator support while admitted for COVID-19.

Counties Manukau DHB RESPONSE

1. The total cost to the DHB from Covid-19 hospitalisations, between February 28 and May 27, broken down by the reasons for the costs;

Cost Areas	Total
Labour Departments	\$ 33,995
Wards	\$ 33,412
ICU/HDU	\$ 213,174
Laboratory	\$ 11,547
Radiology	\$ 1,633
Pharmacy	\$ 25,441
Operating Theatre-MMH	\$ 2,340
Coding/Food/Other Services	\$ 6,500
Total	\$ 328,042

Labour Departments include Doctor and Clinician costs from General Medicine; Allied Health; Respiratory Medicine; Women's Health Doctors etc.

2. The total number of Covid-19 patient admissions between February 28 and May 27, broken down by whether they were in HDU, ICU or general/ medical beds;
 - There were 11 patients diagnosed and discharged with probable or confirmed Covid-19 during this time period; one patient was admitted to Intensive care. One of these patients was admitted and discharged for maternity reasons rather than for Covid-19 causes.

Ward Path	Cases
Maternity Wards	1
Emergency Department	2
Emergency and Medical Wards	7
Emergency; ICU; HDU; Medical & Rehabilitation wards	1
	11



3. The total number of bed days related to Covid-19 patients;
 - There were 62 bed days used for these 11 episodes of care
4. The total number of Covid-19 patients who required the support of a ventilator while in hospital under DHB care.
 - One

You are entitled to seek a review of the response by the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602

Please note that this response, or an edited version of this response, may be published on the DHBs' websites.

Yours faithfully,

Justin Rawiri
NRHCC Incident Controller
Northern Region Health Coordination Centre