

2 February 2022

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Re: Official Information Act request – Opportunistic vaccinations - ADHB Ref: 20211216-1124

I refer to your Official Information Act request dated 24 November 2021 to the Ministry of Health (MoH) and the transfer from the MoH to Auckland DHB on 16 December 2021 requesting the following information:

- 1. A list of all district health board emergency departments that have a policy to provide COVID -19 vaccinations to unvaccinated people (COVID-19) who attend the emergency department**
- 2. A list of all district health board emergency departments, paediatric departments or wards that have a policy to provide childhood immunisations to all unvaccinated children who attend the department or ward**
- 3. What plan each district health board has to connect people or children not currently enrolled in primary care who attend the emergency department or other departments - in primary care (registered with a PHO) - currently only 84% of Māori are enrolled in primary care (PHO).**

Response

This response is for the two emergency departments run by Auckland DHB, at Auckland City Hospital and Starship Children's Hospital. We note that the policy is to offer vaccinations. Parental consent is always necessary to vaccinate.

- 1. A list of all district health board emergency departments that have a policy to provide COVID -19 vaccinations to unvaccinated people (COVID-19) who attend the emergency department**

Children's Emergency Department, Starship Child Health, Starship Children's Hospital, Auckland District Health Board, 2 Park Road Grafton, Auckland

Adult Emergency Department, Auckland City Hospital, Auckland District Health Board, 2 Park road Grafton, Auckland

- 2. A list of all district health board emergency departments, paediatric departments or wards that have a policy to provide childhood immunisations to all unvaccinated children who attend the department or ward**

Starship Child Health discusses COVID-19 vaccinations with all inpatients and outpatients, including those presenting in the Children's Emergency Department. Patients and whānau who wish to be vaccinated onsite are referred to the mobile vaccination team. If patients and whānau indicate they

will access vaccination in the community they are provided with information about community vaccination options.

All inpatient ward areas within Starship Child Health complete nursing care plans for patients. These include a multidisciplinary whānau assessment and screening form with an immunisation section. This section provides information related to immunisations that the tamariki or rangatahi has received, whether there is any potential for opportunistic vaccination and whether there are any specific issues the whānau have with immunisations. The General Paediatric team will offer childhood immunisations to anyone who is unvaccinated or behind the schedule. The Children's Emergency Department routinely discuss childhood vaccinations with whānau. They stock all childhood immunisations and offer opportunistic vaccination to whānau when appropriate.

3. What plan each district health board has to connect people or children not currently enrolled in primary care who attend the emergency department or other departments - in primary care (registered with a PHO) - currently only 84% of Māori are enrolled in primary care (PHO).

We have interpreted your question as referring to patients who are admitted to Auckland City Hospital and Starship Child Health who are likely to not be vaccinated because they are not enrolled in primary care. All patients are screened using the process described in Attachment 1 Patient Visitor Guide. Those who are unvaccinated are encouraged to get vaccinated and this can be done on site if patients consent to this.

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 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 Auckland DHB website.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Margaret Dotchin". The signature is written in a cursive style and is enclosed within a hand-drawn oval.

Margaret Dotchin
Acting Chief Executive

