

12 November 2020

Via Email: [REDACTED]

Response to a request for official information

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request for official information, as a partial transfer of Parts 1 and 2 (of 3) from the Ministry of Health and received 1 October 2020 by Nelson Marlborough Health (NMH)¹, followed by the necessary extension of time 30 October 2020 where you ask:

- 1. What was the percentage of workers across the whole of the DHB's who had received fit testing in the previous twelve months?**

NMH response: 84% of DHB frontline workers in designated high-risk areas, or situations where there is risk of exposure to diseases that are transmitted via an airborne route, have received respiratory fit testing during the previous 12 months.

Our Infection Prevention team has undertaken a risk management approach for workers in areas where N95 or similar respiratory protection is to be worn in line with Ministry of Health direction.

Workers assessed as requiring the use of N95 masks include nurses (including flight nurses), doctors, physiotherapists, technicians, and core midwives working in various areas and services; Emergency Department, Intensive Care Coronary Unit, Post Anaesthesia Care Unit, Operating Theatre, Medical Unit, In-Patient Unit, Assessment, Treatment & Rehabilitation, Paediatrics, Endoscopy, Physiotherapy, Occupational Health, Dialysis and Radiology.

The NMH fit testing programme includes fit testing appropriate health care workers at the employee orientation programme.

- 2. What are the actual numbers for each DHB?**

NMH response:

TABLE 1

Total DHB frontline workers in high risk areas	Total DHB frontline workers in high risk areas respiratory fit-tested previous 12 months
617 ²	518

¹ Nelson Marlborough District Health Board

² Excludes contractors, students, locums

This response has been provided under the Official Information Act 1982. You have the right to seek an investigation by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or free phone 0800 802 602.

If you have any questions about this decision please feel free to email our OIA Coordinator OIArequest@nmdhb.govt.nz. I trust that this information meets your requirements. NMH, like other agencies across the state sector, supports the open disclosure of information to assist the public's understanding of how we are delivering publicly-funded healthcare. This includes the proactive publication of anonymised Official Information Act responses on our website from 10 working days after they have been released. If you feel that there are good reasons why your response should not be made publicly available, we will be happy to consider.

Yours sincerely


Director Nursing and Midwifery