

27 May 2022

[REDACTED]

Response to a request for official information

[REDACTED]

Thank you for your request for official information received 19 April 2022 by Nelson Marlborough Health (NMH)¹, where you seek the following information.

"Dr Nick Baker has stated in the media that it is important for children to be vaccinated with the Pfizer Vaccination to prevent any serious illness

- 1. Does the Pfizer vaccination given to children prevent the child from catching the Omicron variant of Covid 19.***

NMH response:

A child given the Pfizer vaccine at this time is less likely to be infected by the COVID-19 virus because the vaccine improves the child's immune response to a COVID-19 infection.

Secondly, if the vaccinated child does get infected by COVID-19, the chances of severe illness are greatly reduced because the increased immune response reduces the virus's ability to cause symptoms and illness.

The third benefit of vaccination is the child will be less likely to spread infection on to other children or adults.

- 2. How many children in the NMDHB have been infected with the Omicron variant of Covid 19.***

NMH response:

6,524 Children aged under 16 have been infected with COVID-19 since 1 January 2022 to 9 May 2022.

- 3. Of the children infected with the Omicron variant of Covid 19 how many have been hospitalised in the NMDHB.***

NMH response:

32 Children aged under 16, who presented to the Emergency Department for more than 3 hours or were Inpatient admissions, have been clinically coded with COVID-19 since 1 January 2022 to 9 May 2022.

¹ Nelson Marlborough District Health Board

4. Of any hospitalised children with the Omicron variant of Covid 19 how many have no other previous serious health issues."

NMH response:

The above information is not held in a form that is readily retrievable from our systems. As such, NMH declines to respond under section 18(f) *'the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation and research'*. It would take a significant amount of time and resources to manually go through individual patient files.

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 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



Lexie O'Shea
Chief Executive