

8 December 2021

Response to a request for official information

Thank you for your request for official information received 8 November 2021 by Nelson Marlborough Health (NMH)¹, where you seek the following information:

- 1. When the traffic light system is either Green, Orange or Red are the unvaccinated able to access a full range of health care services from GP's, ED visits, hospital, after hours clinics and Specialists?**

NMH response: Proof of vaccination is not needed to access basic needs services including health and disability services, as stated on the Ministry of Health website [My Vaccine Pass | Unite against COVID-19 \(covid19.govt.nz\)](https://www.health.govt.nz/my-vaccine-pass) 'Everyone must be able to have access to supermarkets, pharmacies, health services ... without having to show proof of vaccine status'.

- 2. Once the traffic light system is in place at any of the 3 levels is an unvaccinated parent allowed to go to ED or hospital as a support person /guardian for their unvaccinated child no matter what age the child is eg 7 8 or 12 years etc**

NMH response: Hospitals will not be restricting access based on vaccination status, especially in cases as you describe where the individual is the parent or guardian of a minor. NMH consulted with the Ministry of Health and we were informed- 'Vaccination certificates are not being used to exclude people from essential services such as supermarkets, public transport, and hospitals.'

This decision 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

¹ Nelson Marlborough District Health Board