

13 August 2019



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Newsroom

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By email to: Eloise.Gibson@newsroom.co.nz

Dear Eloise

Official Information Act request – Vaccination rates for health workers

On 25 July 2019 under section 12 of the Official Information Act, you requested the following information:

1. Any information the DHB holds about vaccination/immunization rates for its health workers, including the various rates for midwives, nurses and doctors working for the DHB.
2. Any information the DHB holds about trends in vaccination rates for health workers over the previous decade, and whether any measures have been taken to increase uptake.
3. Any information the DHB holds about vaccination rates for its health workers specifically from Pertussis/Whooping cough, seasonal 'flu and MMR.

Whanganui DHB response:

- 1. Any information the DHB holds about vaccination/immunization rates for its health workers, including the various rates for midwives, nurses and doctors working for the DHB.**

The Whanganui DHB does not hold information on vaccination rates other than for influenza.

The table below shows the coverage rates for influenza from 2011 to 2019:

Occupational Group	Coverage Rate								
	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
Doctors	86%	77%	82%	75%	84%	63%	61%	61%	30%
Nursing (RN/EN)	73%	74%	69%	70%	62%	62%	52%	48%	42%
Other	63%	58%	57%	59%	56%	41%		44%	45%
HcAs	58%	51%							
Allied Health	73%	65%	72%	70%	49%	71%		43%	48%
Midwifery	82%	74%	68%	68%	41%	55%	34%	30%	25%
TOTALS	71%	68%	67%	68.4%	58.4%	58.4%	49%	45.2%	38%

Please note:

- If staff are vaccinated elsewhere then these are not counted in WDHB numbers, counts as non-vaccinated.
- Different years have different data collected for the MOH, therefore some years have no data collected.

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2. Any information the DHB holds about trends in vaccination rates for health workers over the previous decade, and whether any measures have been taken to increase uptake.

The upward trend of vaccination coverage rates in all of occupation groups that the data is collected for is illustrated in the table in question 1, above.

Measures taken to increase vaccination rates:

1. Education measures to increase staff awareness of the vaccinations and their availability
2. More resources allocated to vaccinate staff
3. Education for staff to inform the occupational health service of their vaccination status, i.e. when they are vaccinated elsewhere
4. More staff vaccinators trained and available to vaccinate
5. Leadership for vaccination campaigns is led by senior management
6. Publishing the vaccinations rates for all areas.


Vaccination status for all clinical staff commencing employment is required. Vaccinations are not compulsory, however, staff immunity status is.

3. Any information the DHB holds about vaccination rates for its health workers specifically from Pertussis/Whooping cough, seasonal 'flu and MMR.

The Whanganui DHB does not hold information on vaccination rates other than for influenza. Tetanus/pertussis vaccinations, hepatitis B vaccinations, influenza and MMR is available for all WDHB staff at no cost.

If you have any further queries, please contact our OIA coordinator in the first instance: OIA@wdhb.org.nz.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'R' followed by a long, horizontal, wavy line that tapers to the right.

Russell Simpson
Chief Executive