

12 July 2024

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Tēnā koe Wendy

Your request for official information, reference: HNZ00048787

Thank you for your email on 21 May 2024, asking Health New Zealand | Te Whatu Ora for information regarding Covid-19 under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

Response

On 10 June we advised we had identified that parts of your request were more closely aligned with the functions of the Ministry of Health | Manatū Hauora (Ministry of Health) . For this reason, Health New Zealand (Health NZ) | Te Whatu Ora partially transferred questions 1, 2, 3, 4, 13, and within the tables the information relating to **Date agreement signed and number of doses/Number of doses purchased (plus date)** to the Ministry of Health under section 14(b)(ii) of the Act. You can expect a response from the Ministry of Health in due course.

In regard to question 10, *Kiwi Vax* was developed by Vaccine Alliance Aotearoa New Zealand - Ohu Kaupare Huaketo (VAANZ) as part of the Government's COVID-19 vaccine strategy. VAANZ comprises of Te Herenga Waka - Victoria University of Wellington, the Malaghan Institute of Medical Research, the University of Otago, and a number of local and international collaborators. For this reason, Health NZ | Te Whatu Ora transferred this question to Te Herenga Waka—Victoria University of Wellington under section 14(b)(ii) of the Act. You can expect a response from Te Herenga Waka - Victoria University of Wellington in due course.

For the sake of clarity, I will address each remaining question in turn.

Question 5: We have attached an Excel of vaccine information that we were able to find within the public arena. We have a few gaps and we are hoping you might be able to compare against your records and provide any answers to these gaps or errors in our understanding.

Table 1: Excel of key vaccine data (see attached excel)

Please complete and return the excel table attached. In particular, please (i) add any missing information (see yellow highlight) and (ii) check the tentative information (see green highlight). If our attempt to complete the table is wrong – please replace with correct data.

Please note that in order for Health NZ | Te Whatu Ora to fill in the supplied excel sheet it would require the creation of new information, which is not required under the Act. We have therefore supplied you with data corresponding to what is in your spreadsheet, however we have supplied this in the format in which it exists, as per the Act.

Date first used/now available: We are unable to provide the date each vaccine was “first used” due to potential errors in the data. However, we can provide the date each vaccine was made available in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Vaccine	Date made available
Comirnaty (Pfizer) 30 micrograms/0.3 mL dose (purple cap, must dilute)	19-Feb-21
VAXZEVRIA (previously COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca).	26-Nov-21
Comirnaty (Pfizer)10 micrograms/0.2 mL (orange cap, must dilute)	17-Jan-22
Nuvaxovid (Novavax)	13-Mar-22
Comirnaty (Pfizer) 3 micrograms/0.2 mL (maroon cap, must dilute)	Feb-23
Comirnaty (Pfizer) 30 micrograms/0.3 mL, (grey cap, do not dilute)	1-Mar-23
Comirnaty (Pfizer) Original/Omicron BA.4/5 15/15 micrograms/0.3 mL (grey cap, do not dilute)	1-Mar-23
Comirnaty (Pfizer) Omicron XBB.1.5, 30 micrograms/0.3 mL (grey cap, do not dilute)	7-Mar-24
Comirnaty (Pfizer) Omicron XBB.1.5, 10 micrograms/0.3 mL (blue cap, do not dilute)	30-May-24
Comirnaty (Pfizer) Omicron XBB.1.5, 3 micrograms/0.2 mL (maroon cap, must dilute)	9-July-24

Number of doses given in Aotearoa New Zealand as at 20 May: Please refer to Appendix 1.

Number of doses donated:

NZ bilateral COVID-19 Pfizer doses donated to Polynesia and Fiji from 15 May 2021 - 20 May 2024.

Year	2021	2022	2023	2024	Grand Total
Countries					
Cook Islands	34,350	9,760	778	180	45,068
Fiji	52,560	50,000	0	0	102,560
Niue	2,730	2,340	360	140	5,570
Samoa	55,860	111,810	2,000	0	169,670
Tokelau	2,520	2,770	0	0	5,290
Tonga	30,060	54,910	2,620	300	87,890
Tuvalu	0	4,000	510	260	4,770
Grand Total	178,080	235,590	6,268	880	420,818

Number of doses discarded: Please refer to **Appendix 2**.

Quantity remaining in stock: Please refer to **Appendix 2**.

Expiry date of current stock: Please refer to **Appendix 2**.

Date approved by Medsafe: Please see Medsafe website: www.medsafe.govt.nz/COVID-19/status-of-applications.asp.

Number of doses recommended for each course: Please refer to the Health NZ | Te Whatu Ora website for details on how many COVID-19 vaccines to get and when: <https://info.health.nz/immunisations/vaccines-aotearoa/covid-19-vaccines/getting-covid-19-vaccines/>.

Question 6: What is the total number of vaccine doses that have been purchased, imported into New Zealand and then discarded?

None. For further information please see:

www.health.govt.nz/system/files/documents/pages/20221239_covid-19_vaccine_portfolio_update_-_transfer_and_donation_0.pdf.

Question 7: What is the total number of vaccine doses that have been purchased (paid for), but not delivered into New Zealand? Please explain reasoning for each.

Janssen COVID-19 vaccines were purchased and not delivered to Aotearoa New Zealand. Please see the publicly available Ministry of Health summary statement regarding the Aotearoa New Zealand COVID-19 vaccine procurement process and contracts with suppliers: www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/information-releases/general-information-releases/summary-statement-new-zealand-covid-19-vaccine-procurement-process-and-contracts-suppliers.

Question 8: We understand that a clinical trial of the ReCov vaccine was started on 24 Jun 2021.

- Can you advise when it finished and what the results were?
- Further, we do not think New Zealand ever purchased any ReCov as part of the national vaccine stock? Can you confirm?

We are refusing this part of your request under section 18(g) of the Act as the information you have requested is not held by Health NZ | Te Whatu Ora and we have no grounds to believe that the information is held by another entity subject to the Act. We believe New Zealand Clinical Research may be able to assist in responding to this part of your request. While they are not subject to the Act, they can be contacted via their website: www.nzcr.co.nz/contact-us/.

Question 9: When and why did New Zealand move from using the term Pfizer-BioNTech to simply Pfizer? This seems to be a global trend, but we are not sure why and when this happened?

We are refusing this part of your request under section 18(e) of the Act as the information does not exist or cannot be found. The Health NZ | Te Whatu Ora website continues to use the full name along with shortened versions: <https://info.health.nz/immunisations/vaccines-aotearoa/covid-19-vaccines/covid-19-vaccines-aotearoa/>.

Briefings and other Government papers continue to use the full name, however public-facing messaging often refers only to Pfizer vaccine or simply COVID-19 vaccine. In some cases we

shorten the name to Pfizer for consumer facing communications to make the language more accessible and less technical for the public.

Question 11: Is the Novavax Booster the same as the original Novavax (as in the same dose/injection, just three doses rather than two)? If different, how best can we best distinguish between the two – e.g. Novavax (the original) and the Novavax (the booster)?

It is currently the same vaccine.

Question 12: Please clarify that one dose refers to one injection and a course refers to two doses (when referring to made the first course of Pfizer-BioNTech). Note: We have found instances early on where one dose refers to two injections. If you could also please check Table 1 carefully to ensure we have the quantities of doses correct.

Please refer to the Health NZ | Te Whatu Ora website for details on how many COVID-19 vaccines to get and when: <https://info.health.nz/immunisations/vaccines-aotearoa/covid-19-vaccines/getting-covid-19-vaccines/>.

How to get in touch

If you have any questions, you can contact us at [REDACTED]

If you are not happy with this response, you have the right to make a complaint to the Ombudsman. Information about how to do this is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or by phoning 0800 802 602.

As this information may be of interest to other members of the public, Health NZ | Te Whatu Ora may proactively release a copy of this response on our website. All requester data, including your name and contact details, will be removed prior to release.

Nāku iti noa, nā

[REDACTED]

Chief Advisor, Prevention
National Public Health Service