

25 January 2022

Dear [REDACTED]

**OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST
DHB VACCINATION POLICIES**

Thank you for your recent request seeking information under the Official Information Act 1982. This was received as a transfer from the Ministry of Health to Waikato District Health Board on 9 December 2021.

You have requested the following information:

1. *A list of all district health board emergency departments that have a policy to provide Covid-19 vaccinations to unvaccinated people (COVID-19) who attend the emergency department.*

Waikato Hospital's Covid vaccinators have been administering vaccinations when they have been available. A number of senior medical staff have also been administering Covid vaccinations in the Emergency Department. There are processes in place and it has been carried out with best endeavours.

2. *A list of all district health board emergency departments, paediatric departments (departments) or wards that have a policy to provide childhood immunisations to all unvaccinated children who attend the department or ward.*

Waikato DHB has an immunisation policy (#2204) and associated procedures to opportunistically immunise unvaccinated children who present at its Emergency Departments (Waikato Hospital, Thames Hospital, Tokoroa Hospital, Te Kuiti Hospital and Taumarunui Hospital) or who are admitted to Waikato Hospital paediatric wards.

3. *What plan each district health board has to connect people or children that are **not** currently enrolled in primary care, who attend the emergency department or other departments, with primary care (i.e. to try to ensure they are registered with a PHO). Currently only 84% of Māori are enrolled in primary care (PHO).*

There is no funded service that aims "to connect people or children that are not currently enrolled in primary care, who attend the emergency department or other departments, with primary care."

There are internal processes within the Emergency Department that seek to reconnect people with an appropriate primary care home and this is expected as part of best practice discharge planning, but nothing formal in place. For example all frequent attenders to the Emergency Department are reviewed by the team and associated services in a monthly review. Strategies are put in place to identify them, have care plans in place and links to community services to try to reconnect them with primary care.

For the Medicine and Older Persons, Rehabilitation directorate (including the rural hospitals), the entry point to hospital is via the Emergency Department. Patients are asked in the sign in process if they have a GP and this is noted on iPM. If there is no GP, the comment is General Doctor unknown. In the wards, reception/clerks check GP status on iPM. Nursing staff are encouraged to check this as well. If patients would

like a GP, we have an area relevant GP list (practices, contact details, etc). Some of our rural hospitals also have patient information available about GP's in their locality.


In the paediatric wards, if the nursing team identify either through iPM or the nursing assessment that a child does not have a GP, they advise them to engage with primary health but do not refer anywhere.

For high risk complex children with no known GP, we would actively work with the family to link them with primary care including a possible referral to our public health nursing team.

Waikato DHB supports the open disclosure of information to assist community understanding of how we are delivering publically 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.

I hope this information is of help to you.

Yours sincerely

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ALEX GORDON

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