

11 November 2021

Luke

By email to: fyi-request-17096-fa921d62@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Luke

Re Official Information Request for Nurses at Auckland City Hospital

I refer to your official information request dated 08 October 2021 for the following information:

I am writing to request the number of nurses employed at Auckland City Hospital, and how many are scheduled to work in the event of a major COVID-19 outbreak. These questions relate to Auckland City Hospital only. Specifically:

- a) How many Nurses are currently employed at Auckland City Hospital?
- b) What is the planned maximum number of Nurses designated to work on COVID-19 wards in the event of a major COVID-19 outbreak?
- c) How many Nurses have resigned since May 5, 2021?
- d) How many Nurses working in ICU have resigned since May 5, 2021?
- e) What is the maximum number of COVID-19 patients ADHB believes it can reasonably admit to Auckland City Hospital?
- f) What is the planned maximum number of ICU beds that is available in the event of a major COVID-19 outbreak?

By "currently employed", I ask for staff employed as of October 3, 2021, or if unavailable, the most recent date to that as possible. Similar reasoning applies to c) and d).

By "major COVID-19 outbreak" I mean an outbreak that would represent a worst-case scenario as planned for by ADHB.

We have provided the information under each of your questions below.

a) How many Nurses are currently employed at Auckland City Hospital?

3149

b) What is the planned maximum number of Nurses designated to work on COVID-19 wards in the event of a major COVID-19 outbreak?

There is no planned maximum number of nurses. We will redeploy nurses from the complement noted above at a), as required to maintain patient safety.

c) How many Nurses have resigned since May 5, 2021?

76

d) How many Nurses working in ICU have resigned since May 5, 2021?

5

e) What is the maximum number of COVID-19 patients ADHB believes it can reasonably admit to Auckland City Hospital?

ADHB has not carried out planning to calculate a maximum number of COVID-19 patients it could 'reasonably' admit. We're able to flex according to demand and have escalation plans in place for a surge in patients. These plans are not just based around numbers of patients requiring our care but also the acuity and complexity of their conditions.

f) What is the planned maximum number of ICU beds that is available in the event of a major COVID-19 outbreak?

There is no planned maximum number of beds. Currently the number of physical and resourced beds is:

	Physical	Resourced	Mix
DCCM	24	17	11 ICU, 6 HDU
CVICU	26	22	16 ICU, 6 HDU
PICU	22	22	16 ICU, 6 HDU

Resourced is what is budgeted and meets requirements as per College of Intensive Care Medicine standards. The actual number of beds available on any day is also influenced by vacancies and unplanned leave (e.g. sick leave).

There is an escalation plan to use all unresourced ICU beds initially. If these were all full, we would then use two of our PACUs (post-anaesthetic care units), which would provide a further 28 beds.

While this would then mean up to 78 physical adult beds, these beds would then need to be resourced. Escalation involves using non-ICU nurses to assist in the care of ICU patients. This would occur in a scenario where non-acute care was reduced or stopped. The number of beds available would depend on the number of nurses freed up to assist in ICU.

DCCM = Department of Critical Medicine
CVICU = Cardiovascular Intensive Care Unit
PICU = Paediatric Intensive Care Unit
HDU = High Dependency Unit

I trust this information answers your questions.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that this response, or an edited version of this response, may be published on the Auckland DHB website.

Yours sincerely



Ailsa Claire, OBE
Chief Executive