

1 February 2023

Chris McCashin
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Tēnā koe Chris,

Your Official Information Act request, reference: HNZ00008900

Thank you for your request for information, which was partially transferred from Manatū Hauora (the Ministry of Health) on 14 December 2022, asking for information about COVID-19 vaccines which has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). Please find a response to each part of your request below.

A follow up on this - given this treatment is a new novel technology and there are so many dead within 21 days I would have thought all of these deaths would HAVE to be referred to the Coroner? It is unbelievable if they haven't. One case of Covid-19 shuts down the country, 177 deaths including children and nobody bats an eyelid at MOH.

Police always inform a coroner when someone dies unexpectedly, violently or in suspicious circumstances. Additionally, if a general practitioner (GP) or doctor is unsure what caused a person's death, they will report it to the coroner. The coroner will find out when, where, how and why the death happened. They'll also work out whether anything can be done differently so that similar deaths can be prevented. The Coroner's Court is made up of the Chief Coroner and up to 20 Coroners, with support from the Coronial Services Unit at the Ministry of Justice. The cause of death is investigated and determined by Coroners, an independent judicial officer, and not the National Immunisation Programme. Information on the process of a post-mortem is found here: <https://coronialservices.justice.govt.nz/what-happens-during-a-post-mortem/>.

*I will try to rephrase of the 177 deaths How many were of these occurred where the
- Report was not validated due to address not being verified, no NHI number or failed follow up with reporter per the flow diagram provided under another OIA request*

None of the 177 reports were unvalidated.

- GP of the deceased was attempted to be contacted (2 x minimum) - not contacted so therefore went to the ISMB for input and the case was closed per the flow diagram

There are alternative pathways to acquire additional information for a case. Follow-up with the GP is not necessary if sufficient information is provided in the report.

- Signed off by a GP or Health Practitioner and closed or classed as "unexpected or unexplained"

Classifications for deaths are available in the Medsafe report in the 'Summary of reported deaths' section. The cases that could not be assessed due to insufficient information are based on information provided to CARM. We do not have any reports signed off by GPs or health practitioners as unexpected or unexplained.

- And also - how are the observed deaths picked up?

The observed/expected analysis of deaths is a statistical analysis that is conducted separately to the reports that the Centre for Adverse Reactions Monitoring (CARM) receives. Therefore, Te

Whatu Ora does not hold detailed information about these cases. All the relevant information about this analysis can be found in the Medsafe report in the 'Observed-versus-expected analyses – Comirnaty vaccine' section.

Please provide associated process documents eg

- Person vaccinated*
 - MOH follows up to see if person is feeling okay within monitoring period*
 - MOH doesn't hear back then what happens*
 - MOH contact GP / family?*
 - MOH finds out someone has died?*
 - GP / friends and family did not know the person was vaccinated in last 21 days so no report is filed and it's assumed natural causes*
 - Do MoH notify friends / next of kin that the person was vaccinated and they report it to GP / Coroner*
 - Or do MOH not disclose and the death is added to observed in monitoring period*
- Please provide all steps taken and what is done to pick up observed deaths and the process following.*

As above, the observed/expected analysis of deaths is a statistical analysis that is conducted separately to the reports that the Centre for Adverse Reactions Monitoring (CARM) receives. Therefore, Te Whatu Ora does not hold detailed information about these cases. All the relevant information about this analysis can be found in the Medsafe report in the 'Observed-versus-expected analyses – Comirnaty vaccine' section.

How to get in contact

If you have any questions, you can contact us at h.nzOIA@health.govt.nz.

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, 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



Astrid Koornneef
**Interim Director, Prevention
National Public Health Service**