

11 July 2023

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Tēnā koe Phillip

Your request for Official information, reference: HN200021534

Thank you for your request for information asking for the following which has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). As you know, this was transferred from Manatū Hauora Ministry of Health and formally received by Te Whatu Ora on 6 June 2023:

"I am requesting the specific clinical evidence that supports the claim of elimination / suppression of transmission made in the recent radio advertising for the flu jab"

There is an online resource titled, *Immunisation Handbook 2020*. You can find this on the Ministry of Health's website at <https://www.health.govt.nz/publication/immunisation-handbook-2020>. In section 11.4.2 there is a subsection on herd immunity (pp.316) which references the following paper, *Herd effect from influenza vaccination in nonhealthcare settings: a systematic review of randomised controlled trials and observational studies* (2016) – please note, this scholastic document is reference 96 noted in the *Immunisation Handbook*. This scholastic document reports a significant effect on herd immunity in the community such as reduced transmission of the influenza virus, even to those who have not been vaccinated.

How to get in touch

If you have any questions, you can contact us at hnzOIA@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



Matt Hannant
Interim Director, Prevention
National Public Health Service
Te Whatu Ora – Health New Zealand