

Week ending	Journalist	Outlet	Nature of query	Query	Response
16 January 2022	s 9(2)(a)	Stuff	Dis/misinformation	<p>A number of Stuff readers have sent in pictures of leaflets put into their mail boxes from anti-vaccination group Voices for Freedom.</p> <p>We did a story about this in December, however, I'm wondering if the ministry has an official statement somewhere on this?</p> <p>- Has anything been put out from the ministry regarding what type of leaflets are official, and what aren't?</p> <p>- Have any complaints or reports been made to the ministry about this leaflet distribution?</p>	<p>Attribute to a Ministry of Health spokesperson:</p> <p>We're aware of this material but encourage people to only go to trusted sources of information when seeking to find out more about the virus and the vaccine.</p> <p>Misinformation can be spread through a range of different channels including social media, traditional media (television, radio and print), pamphlets, posters and letterbox drops.</p> <p>One of the best ways to stop misinformation from spreading is by only sharing information from official sources like covid19.govt.nz, health.govt.nz, karawhiua.nz, the Ministry for Pacific People, or health providers.</p> <p>We all have a responsibility to stop misinformation spreading, and we encourage people to only go to trusted sources to get reliable information.</p> <p>We encourage social media companies to continue to be proactive in helping to manage misinformation.</p> <p>If people see any examples of misinformation about COVID-19 or the vaccine, whether it's online or a physical document, we encourage them to report it to CERT NZ through their website or calling 0800 2378 69.</p> <p>Our approach focuses on providing readily available reliable information while building and strengthening resilience to false information. We publish accurate, timely, reliable</p>

					<p>content consistently to ensure our community knows that we are a place to go for correct information and regularly advise on how to look out for accurate information.</p> <p>We provide support to government agencies supporting COVID-19 response to facilitate training and best practice.</p> <p>COVID-19 Group and MoH are working jointly on providing guidance to the health sector, businesses and community leaders on responding to COVID-19 vaccine false information.</p> <p>Government cyber security agency CERT NZ is working closely with other government departments to try to stop scams and is the central coordination point for any COVID-19 cyber security incidents and a public reporting point for false information.</p> <p>ENDS</p>
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<p>19 December 2021</p>	<p>s 9(2)(a)</p>	<p>Stuff</p>	<p>Dis/misinformation</p>	<p>Just wondering if you might be able to comment on flyers featuring similar branding to that of the MoH/Covid Response. The material casts doubt over the effectiveness of the vaccine and does feature a disclaimer in the fine print, saying it is not an official document.</p> <p>It has been published by the Voices for Freedom, and is the flyer featured in this link.</p> <p>Can the ministry comment as to whether it is aware of this material being distributed? If so, has it taken any action to stop this happening? Does the ministry wish to comment on the distribution of this material and others like it?</p>	<p>You can attribute to a Ministry of Health spokesperson:</p> <p>We're aware of it and want to remind and encourage people to only go to trusted sources of information when seeking to find out more about the virus and the vaccine.</p> <p>Misinformation can be spread through a range of different channels including social media, traditional media (television, radio and print), pamphlets, posters and letterbox drops.</p> <p>One of the best ways to stop misinformation from spreading is by only sharing information from official sources like covid19.govt.nz, health.govt.nz, karawhiua.nz, Ministry for Pacific People, or health provider.</p> <p>We all have a responsibility to stop misinformation spreading, and we encourage people to only go to trusted sources to get reliable information.</p> <p>We encourage social media companies to continue to be proactive in helping to manage misinformation.</p> <p>If people see any examples of misinformation about COVID-19 or the vaccine, whether it's online or a physical document, we encourage them to report it to CERT NZ through their website or calling 0800 2378 69.</p> <p>Our approach focuses on providing readily available reliable information while building and strengthening resilience to false information. We publish accurate, timely, reliable content consistently to ensure our community knows that</p>
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3 October 2021	s 9(2)(a)	Stuff	Dis/misinformation	<p>A group of anti-vaxxers targeted Nelson College yesterday, including a stand at the bottom of the school drive which said 4 New Zealand teens were dead because of the "clot shot".</p> <p>I know the prime minister said two weeks ago there had been no deaths of any teenagers in New Zealand related to getting vaccinated, but could I please have a response to the above?</p>	<p>It is very disappointing to hear about this public display of false claims related to the COVID-19 vaccine in teenagers, especially when it is targeted at a school.</p> <p>The claims are untrue and irresponsible and only serve as a threat to a successful nationwide vaccine rollout.</p> <p>There have been no teenage deaths in New Zealand reported to the Centre for Adverse Reactions Monitoring (CARM) that are considered related to getting vaccinated against COVID-19.</p> <p>Getting vaccinated is the best way to protect people from the virus. The Ministry of Health continues to encourage as many eligible people as possible – that's everyone over the age of 12 – to get vaccinated. We have enough supply to vaccinate everyone by the end of the year.</p> <p>The chief coroner Judge Deborah Marshall said earlier this month that speculation an Auckland teenager's death was related to the COVID-19 vaccine was incorrect.</p> <p>If there is a death that is linked to the vaccine, it would be made public and reported accordingly. Just as we report the sad deaths of people who have died from Covid-19.</p> <p>Earlier this year we reported the death of a woman in her 50s who had received the Pfizer vaccine. The CV-ISMB reviewed this case and considered that the woman's death was due to myocarditis, which is known to be a rare side effect of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine. They considered that the myocarditis was probably due to vaccination. The case has been referred to the Coroner and the cause of death has not yet been determined.</p> <p>People should endeavour to get vaccination information</p>
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					<p>from reliable sources. These include the Unite Against COVID-19 and the Ministry of Health websites, and their social media channels, Karawhiua and Ministry for Pacific Peoples websites as well as local DHBs, health providers and GPs.</p> <p>If people come across any misinformation online, we urge them to report it to the channel you see it on. You can also report it online to CERT NZ: <a href="http://www.cert.govt.nz">www.cert.govt.nz</a>, email <a href="mailto:covid@ops.cert.govt.nz">covid@ops.cert.govt.nz</a> or call them on 0800 2378 69.</p> <p>It will take a whole-of-society approach to build awareness about misinformation and strengthen resilience to it. Government, civil society, tech companies, media, academia, business and the public all have a role to play, from education, to communication, to ensuring public safety.</p> <p>Ends</p>
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<p>5 September 2021</p>	<p>s 9(2)(a)</p>	<p>Stuff</p>	<p>Dis/misinformation</p>	<p>I had this letter (attached) sent to me from a pharmacist in Napier who was quite concerned by its contents.</p> <p>I have contacted HBDHB, who recommended I get comment from MOH. I have attached the letter, and I guess one of the most concerning points is the suggestion of inhaling hydrogen peroxide through a nebulizer.</p> <p>It also makes suggestions that the Covid-19 vaccine shortens your life and a few other points intended to scare its readers.</p> <p>Is MoH able to comment on the contents of this "fact checked" letter and the dangerous message that it's portraying?</p> <p>According to the DHB, it's been circling around NZ for a while. If someone could come back to me before 1pm that would be great.</p>	<p>Please attribute any of the following to a Ministry of Health spokesperson:</p> <p>The Ministry of Health's focus is on providing clear, consistent access to trusted and transparent information. We are aware, however, there is some material circulating in the community that comments on the safety and efficacy of COVID-19 vaccines. Making false claims about COVID-19 and vaccinations is concerning, unhelpful and potentially dangerous.</p> <p>It is important that people use only reliable sources for their information and should carefully consider what they pass on. We need a whole of society approach to combat misinformation, not only by government agencies but also academia and the media.</p> <p>Official communications about the COVID-19 vaccine will be from the Unite Against COVID-19, Karawhiua, and Ministry of Health websites, and their social media channels.</p> <p>In addition, the Unite Against COVID-19 national public information campaign has been designed to ensure information is available to everyone in Aotearoa. This includes content on television, radio, social media, in newspapers and maildrops in letterboxes.</p> <p>If people see any examples of misinformation about the vaccine, whether it's online or a physical document, they can report it to CERT NZ by emailing: covid@ops.cert.govt.nz. If people see COVID-19 misinformation on social media, they should report it to the social media platform it appears on.</p>
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22 August 2021	s 9(2)(a)	Stuff	Dis/misinformation	<p>Last Saturday (Aug 14), an article about a North Shore nurse who peddled conspiracy theories on Wechat got published on Stuff. The nurse Judy Zhu told a group of 300 neighbours on July 31 that the government has been hiding information about people who have tested positive at her clinic - Apollo Medical Centre - which has been verified by Apollo to be false.</p> <p>The story was translated by NZ Chinese media this Monday, and widely read by the Chinese community over WeChat. On Tuesday, the government announced the community case, and many Chinese Kiwis are now posting on social media that the nurse is a "whistleblower" and that the government is indeed hiding cases that were earlier found in the community.</p> <p>The fact that the current</p>	Referred to main team
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				<p>Auckland cluster is largely linked to the North Shore further fuelled people's discussions online, drawing links between the two incidents.</p> <p>Since then, the Chinese NZ Herald has posted an article on its WeChat channel speculating that the nurse is a "whistleblower" which further fuelled readers' discussions. This article received over 17,000 clicks.</p> <p>Effectively, Covid conspiracy theory shared by a nurse, has now further fuelled more conspiracy theories due to how Chinese NZ media has portrayed the incident, could the ministry answer these questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. What do you think of this particular incident of the Chinese NZ herald undermining the NZ Chinese community's trust of the government's Covid response through their</li></ol>	
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				<p>reporting?</p> <p>2. Are you concerned about Covid-19 misinformation spreading on Chinese social media, and Chinese ethnic media in NZ (such as the NZ Chinese Herald, Skykiwi etc?) And what actions will you take to address these risks?</p> <p>3. Has the Ministry of Health spoken to any Chinese NZ media about expectations of their Covid-19 reporting since the beginning of the pandemic?</p> <p>4. Has the Ministry of Health spoken to any Chinese NZ media (print, digital and radio) about preventing the spread of Covid-19 misinformation since Stuff's publishing of the nurse article on Saturday Aug 14?</p> <p>5. Has the Ministry of Health spoken to any Chinese community leaders about preventing the spread of Covid-19 misinformation since Stuff's publishing of the nurse article on Saturday Aug 14?</p>	
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				<p>Furthermore, could the ministry please give a confirmation (provide any related documents) to show that there were no detected community cases of Covid prior to August 16?</p>	
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20 June 2021	Melanie Carroll	s 9(2)(a)	Dis/misinformation	<p>I'm hoping to talk to someone for a story about vaccine misinformation in the workplace.</p> <p>I was forwarded the email sent to business owners recently about how to deal with this, and was interested in whether it had been sparked by anything in particular. Are there any specific concerns the Government has? What information is there around vaccine misinformation in the workplace?</p>	<p>See below a response to your query, attributable to COVID-19 vaccine programme general manager communications and engagement John Walsh</p> <p>The Ministry of Health's focus is on providing clear, consistent access to trusted and transparent information, and we concur with the information provided on the business.govt.nz site.</p> <p>We are also heartened by the latest consumer research, which has shown 80% of New Zealanders say they are likely to get vaccinated or have already been vaccinated, up from 69% in March.</p> <p>We are aware, however, there is some material circulating in the community that comments on the safety and efficacy of the COVID-19 vaccines.</p> <p>It is important that people use only reliable sources for their information and should carefully consider what they pass on.</p> <p>We need a whole of society approach to combat misinformation, not only by government agencies but also academia and the media.</p> <p>Official communications about the COVID-19 vaccine will be from Unite Against COVID-19 and the Ministry of Health websites.</p> <p>If people see any examples of misinformation about the vaccine, whether it's online or a physical document, they can report it to CERT NZ by emailing: covid@ops.cert.govt.nz.</p> <p>If people see COVID-19 misinformation on social media, they should report it to the social media platform it appears on.</p>
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