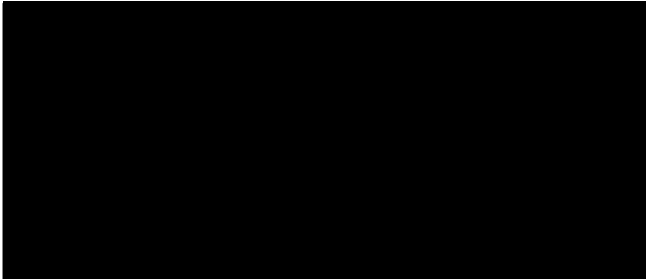


6 April 2021



**Re: Official Information Act request – Covid vaccine rollouts**

I refer to your Official Information Act request dated 4 March 2021 requesting the following information:

**It seems the Ministry of Health has devolved roll-out accountability to DHBs?**

**1. How will ADHB roll-out coordination work, nationally, regionally, locally? What role do ADHB Primary Health Organisations play?**

The rollout of the vaccine across the Northern Region four DHBs (Northland, Waitematā, Auckland and Counties Manukau) is being co-ordinated by the Northern Region Health Coordination Centre (NRHCC).

The NRHCC brings together expertise from the four DHBs, Auckland Regional Public Health Service (ARPHS), the Northland DHB Public Health Unit, primary care, and a regional Clinical Technical Advisory Group.

Key NRHCC work streams include Māori health, Pacific health, welfare support, aged residential care, logistics (supply chain), hospital capacity and response, outbreak management, testing, the vaccination programme, and the healthcare workforce in managed isolation and quarantine facilities.

From a vaccination perspective our role is to operationalise the national plan to vaccinate all New Zealanders with the Pfizer vaccine in Northland and Auckland. Details of this plan are available on the Ministry of Health website <https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-vaccines>

Primary Health Organisations in Auckland play a key role in the NRHCC's work, as they have done so through the different phases of the pandemic. PHO representatives are working within the NRHCC on the vaccine roll-out and the PHOs also inform our planning and decision-making processes through a number of regular governance and operational forums.

- 2. How will a patchwork of conflicting roll-out responses in the greater Auckland region be avoided? How will the ADHB maintain standard NZ immunisation schedule be maintained including the flu vaccinations?**

The DHBs in Auckland are working regionally to implement a coordinated system of vaccination capacity. Capacity is being established on a geographical basis to support people to have convenient and accessible choices. Every effort is made to ensure that providers can continue to deliver usual care, including immunisations. Establishing dedicated vaccination centres helps to reduce the disruption to existing services.

- 3. How and where will the Aged Care residents in the ADHB region be vaccinated? What ages get priority?**

Aged Care residents are in Group 2 and will follow on from the vaccination of frontline healthcare workers. We will be working closely with Aged Residential Care providers on how that will be implemented, but it is too soon to be able to provide more detail. Regular updates will be provided on our dedicated website, <https://immunisation.northernregion.nz/> as well as communications to stakeholders and communities.

- 4. In the ADHB region where will the public be vaccinated? Immunisation clinics, schools, sports arenas, convention centres, community halls, Marae, pharmacies, GP practices, parking lots?**

We are working closely with primary care and community providers on plans for a range of vaccination centres. This includes standalone vaccination centres like the recently opened centre in South Auckland, as well as smaller more targeted centres run in conjunction with primary health providers. It is too soon to be able to provide more detail at this stage. Regular updates will be provided on our dedicated website, <https://immunisation.northernregion.nz/> as well as communications to stakeholders and communities.

- 5. In the ADHB how will the members of the public make immunisation appointments? How will people register for a vaccination; online, phone or will people be called forward? Once immunised will vaccination certification/passports be issued?**

When it is their turn to be vaccinated the public will be able to book online for a time and location to suit them. We have a dedicated call centre set up so people can also book over the phone. This system is currently being used by border and MIQ workers and their household contacts. Vaccinations will be recorded in a national immunisation register against each individual's National Health Index number.

- 6. Can an individual get vaccinated outside of their DHB region? How will the ADHB handle this issue?**

Yes. Anyone within a particular target group can arrange an appointment to attend a vaccination centre even if it is outside their DHB catchment area.

**7. How will the rural areas in the ADHB get vaccinated?**

Vaccines will be available in a range of locations so that it is as easy as possible for people to access their free COVID-19 vaccine.

**8. Will primary care in the ADHB be overwhelmed with delivering vaccinations at the expense of critical primary care standard services?**

A pandemic creates unique challenges but we continue to work closely with the Primary Health Organisations to balance the resources needed to respond to the pandemic (including vaccination) with the resources needed to deliver the critical primary care standard services in our communities.

**9. In the ADHB GPs are presently trying to negotiate a fee schedule with the Ministry of Health and some GPs arguing that pharmacies should not provide COVID-19 vaccines. How are the commercial/private interests going to be managed in your region?**

Our objective is to provide a good coverage of vaccination opportunities for our population and we are exploring several options, some of these may involve GPs and some may involve pharmacies. We follow the appropriate procurement and funding guidelines including applying national pricing where this has been negotiated.

**10. Will sub-regions get different vaccines? Will these vaccines offer the same level of protection across the ADHB?**

The vaccine programme in the Northern Region, like the rest of NZ, uses the Pfizer BioNTech vaccine.

**11. Will such a critical plan to the ADHB's population be independently peer reviewed.**

Our plans are reviewed by the Ministry of Health which has a governance framework set up to review and monitor the DHBs' progress.

You are entitled to seek a review of the response by the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://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 faithfully



Ailsa Claire, OBE  
Chief Executive of Te Toka Tumai (Auckland District Health Board)

