

Northern Region Health
Coordination Centre
Level 9
Bledisloe House
24 Wellesley Street West,
Auckland CBD, Auckland 1010

22 December 2021



Official Information Act request – Pulse Oximeters in Auckland & Northland

I refer to your official information request transferred to the Northern Region Health Coordination Centre (NRHCC) on 26 November 2021 for the following information:

Information including but not limited to memos, reports, emails, spreadsheets, texts and audio-visual materials about:

The supply and provision of pulse oximeters for people self-isolating in Auckland and Northland, to include the three metro DHBs and Northland DHB during the Delta outbreak of late 2021.

- 1. How many pulse oximeters were available to these DHBs on 1 August 2021?**
- 2. The number of pulse oximeters over time available between 1 September 2021 and 1 November 2021.**
- 3. The number of pulse oximeters provided to Covid-19 patients self-isolating between 1 September 2021 and 1 November 2021.**

I am responding on behalf of the Northern Region Health Coordination Centre (NRHCC), the COVID-19 response and vaccination team set up by the Northland, Waitematā, Auckland, and Counties Manukau DHBs.

Information including but not limited to memos, reports, emails, spreadsheets, texts and audio-visual materials about:

The supply and provision of pulse oximeters for people self-isolating in Auckland and Northland, to include the three metro DHBs and Northland DHB during the Delta outbreak of late 2021.

- 1. How many pulse oximeters were available to these DHBs on 1 August 2021?**

The Ministry of Health (MoH) have provided NRHCC with following information in response to this question.

The Ministry of Health first secured pulse oximeters in late August 2021. This stock was received into the warehouse and was available to support COVID-19 cases in MIQ from 17 September 2021. The supply of pulse oximeters has since followed the same journey as the quarantine requirements, moving from MIQ to MIQ/community quarantine.

The Ministry subsequently secured pulse oximeters as below in the period of 1 September 2021 – 17 November 2021:

- 3 September 2021 – 306 units
- 15 September 2021 – 200 units
- 28 September 2021 – 300 units
- 7 October 2021 – 840 units
- 15 October 2021 – 10,160 units
- 5 November 2021 – 5,000 units
- 17 November – 10,000 units

At no point has the Ministry's supply of pulse oximeters been unable to meet demand required for COVID-19 positive cases.

2. The number of pulse oximeters over time available between 1 September 2021 and 1 November 2021.

The supply of pulse oximeters to District Health Boards has been centrally managed by the Ministry of Health (MoH).

300 pulse oximeters were initially provided by the MoH during the week of September 13, 2021 to Northern Managed Facilities (NMF). These were distributed to the three Auckland MIQ Facilities. 120 were later recouped, sterilised and redistributed to Covid-19 positive cases self-isolating at home.

The Ministry of Health reached out again on 21 October and 30 October 2021, subsequently sending out an additional 200 and 300 pulse oximeters respectively.

In total between 1 September 2021 and 1 November 2021, the MoH provided the Northern District Health Boards with 800 pulse oximeters.

3. The number of pulse oximeters provided to Covid-19 patients self-isolating between 1 September 2021 and 1 November 2021.

All COVID-positive cases isolating at home are sent a home isolation pack which includes one pulse oximeter per household.

Pulse oximeters have been sent out to each household since the beginning of the programme which commenced on Saturday 25th September, 2021.

Between 1 September 2021 and 1 November 2021, a total of 567 pulse oximeters were dispatched to households where Covid-19 positive patients were self-isolating.

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 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

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a final flourish, representing the name Fepulea'i Margie Apa.

Fepulea'i Margie Apa
Chief Executive
Counties Manukau Health