

13 April 2022

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[REDACTED]

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Re: Official Information Act request – Staff absences due to COVID-19

I refer to your Official Information Act requests dated 1, 10 and clarified 14 March 2022 requesting the following information:

Can you please tell me how many ADHB staff are off today (or yesterday if you can't get that figure today) because of Covid (either with the virus or home because they're isolating/caring for someone with Covid)? Can you please break that down by clinical and non-clinical?

Any update on finding the number of frontline staff who are off because of Covid?

The OIA request was clarified on 14 March to:

I would love to have the nearest approximation if possible. From the nearest possible day. It doesn't have to be to the exact number. And can be the number of staff absent on any given day.

Response

Please see the attached file in response to your request, which shows staff absence data due to COVID-19 for March 2022, broken down by day to provide a full picture.

The number of staff absent across March 2022 was lower than expected based on overseas benchmarks. Despite this, Auckland DHB teams have been under significant pressure during the surge in Omicron cases in New Zealand. This was not only due to staff off work with COVID-19 but due some staff being off for other reasons (e.g. other forms of leave) and pre-existing vacancies in our nursing workforce.

Please note that:

- The data shows the number of Auckland DHB staff (defined as those who are employed and paid by Auckland DHB) who were absent on each day throughout March.
- The report was generated on 8 April 2022 and captures staff absences recorded as COVID leave. This includes instances where an employee may be off to care for whānau.

- The data does not include staff who were absent for other reasons, for example, other sick leave and annual leave.
- The data is broken down into groups based on profession. Non-clinical support workers include employees such as orderlies and cleaners.
- Individual employees were likely absent for more than one day, therefore, they will be included in the total for each day they were absent.

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



Ailsa Claire, OBE
Chief Executive