



03 May 2022



Dear 

Official Information Act Request

Thank you for your request dated 27 February 2022, transferred to Waikato District Health Board (DHB) from the Ministry of Health on 22 March 2022, for information regarding the procedure for hospital admissions in relation to COVID-19. I enclose the following information.

Please indicate what is your exact procedure for determining that hospital admissions in this current time are in fact directly due to COVID:-

i.e. are you testing people who are admitting themselves for something non respiratory related and if they test positive after admission for sars cov 2 are you listing it as a COVID admission regardless?

i.e. people who are admitted for something respiratory related that is later diagnosed as not sars cov 2, are you indicating them as COVID hospitalizations if they return a positive test during admission?

All patient admissions have a 'surveillance' swab which determines their COVID-19 status. All results related to COVID-19 are coded.

The Ministry of Health has strict criteria for coding and editing the results for COVID-19 including current symptom / non-symptomatic, and history of COVID-19.

The principal diagnosis may not be related to COVID-19, however if a patient develops COVID-19 symptoms and / or tests positive during the inpatient episode of care, then additional codes for COVID-19 will be assigned.

Waikato DHB is following Ministry of Health Vaccine Technical Advisory Group, please see listed here the website link: <https://www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/leadership-ministry/expert-groups/covid-19-vaccine-technical-advisory-group-cv-tag>

Waikato DHB supports the open disclosure of information to assist community understanding of how we are delivering publically funded healthcare. This includes the proactive publication of anonymised Official Information Act responses on our website from 10 working days after they have been released.

Yours sincerely

Christine Lowry

Executive Director - Waikato Hospital and Community Services
Waikato District Health Board