

13 April 2022

Rowan Quinn

By email: Rowan.Quinn@rnz.co.nz

Dear Rowan

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

Auckland DHB March 2022 staff absence data due to COVID-19 as at 8 April....xlsx

Date	Week Day	Clinical			Non-clinical		Total
		Medical	Nursing	Allied Health	Support	Administration	
01-Mar-22	Tuesday	30	133	69	33	40	305
02-Mar-22	Wednesday	28	132	84	37	41	322
03-Mar-22	Thursday	28	132	82	32	48	322
04-Mar-22	Friday	36	145	89	37	49	356
05-Mar-22	Saturday	1	67	15	26	7	116
06-Mar-22	Sunday	1	65	13	23	6	108
07-Mar-22	Monday	29	163	108	45	72	417
08-Mar-22	Tuesday	30	186	93	42	77	428
09-Mar-22	Wednesday	38	178	90	41	84	431
10-Mar-22	Thursday	37	160	90	33	88	408
11-Mar-22	Friday	36	159	75	29	86	385
12-Mar-22	Saturday		63	8	11	4	86
13-Mar-22	Sunday		66	5	14	5	90
14-Mar-22	Monday	30	124	76	22	63	315
15-Mar-22	Tuesday	33	128	73	24	63	321
16-Mar-22	Wednesday	32	134	71	20	58	315
17-Mar-22	Thursday	33	116	64	19	46	278
18-Mar-22	Friday	30	101	54	17	44	246
19-Mar-22	Saturday	1	54	3	1	4	63
20-Mar-22	Sunday	1	39	2	4	6	52
21-Mar-22	Monday	28	102	49	16	31	226
22-Mar-22	Tuesday	23	94	48	14	32	211
23-Mar-22	Wednesday	18	82	43	12	25	180
24-Mar-22	Thursday	21	74	40	13	20	168
25-Mar-22	Friday	16	64	33	11	18	142
26-Mar-22	Saturday	1	30	2		3	36
27-Mar-22	Sunday	1	32	1		4	38
28-Mar-22	Monday		75	2	1	3	81
29-Mar-22	Tuesday		77	2	2	3	84
30-Mar-22	Wednesday		78	1	2	2	83
31-Mar-22	Thursday		67		2	3	72