

29 September 2021

[REDACTED]

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Re: OIA request – National standards for vaccine storage and transportation

Thank you for your Official Information Act request received as a transfer from the Ministry of Health 20 August 2021 seeking information from Waitematā District Health Board (DHB) about national standards for vaccine storage and transportation for immunisation providers.

Before responding to your specific questions, it may be useful to provide some context about our services.

Waitematā is the largest and one of the most rapidly growing DHBs in the country, serving a population of around 650,000 across the North Shore, Waitakere and Rodney areas. We are the largest employer in the district, employing around 8,600 people across more than 80 locations.

In addition to providing care to our own resident population, we are the Northern Region provider of forensic mental health services and child rehabilitation services, plus the metro Auckland provider of child community dental services and community alcohol and drug services.

In response to your request, we are able to provide the following information:

Please forward a copy of the schedule listing all New Zealand immunisation providers, with the details of their respective approved/licensed refrigerator technician. The refrigerator technician in this instance is the person who undertakes their annual vaccine refrigerator servicing (Sect 7.1).

The details I require of the approved/licensed refrigerator technician are their Electrical Workers Registration Board licence number and expiry date.

Waitematā DHB does not collate the information requested, specifically the approved/licensed refrigerator technician and their Electrical Workers Registration Board licence number and expiry date. DHB audits of providers, including community pharmacies, which provide vaccination services, do not collect this information.

Primary Health Organisations (PHOs), which ensure the provision of essential primary health care services, mostly through general practices, provide the oversight of cold chain accreditation of general practices.

PHOs do not collate this information. If a general practice requests information on refrigerator servicing, they are advised to contact the distributor of the refrigerator to obtain details of authorised technicians.

We are, therefore, refusing your request under section 18(g)(i) of the Official Information Act as the information requested is not held by us or the PHOs we contract to deliver this service

For your information, the following PHOs operate in our district:

- Alliance Health+.
- Comprehensive Care.
- National Hauora Coalition.
- ProCare.
- Total Healthcare.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review of this decision by the Ombudsman. Information about how to seek a review is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or Freephone 0800 802 602.

I trust that the information we have been able to provide is helpful.

Waitematā DHB supports the open disclosure of information to assist community understanding of how we are delivering publicly 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.

If you consider there are good reasons why this response should not be made publicly available, we will be happy to consider your views.

Yours sincerely



**Acting Executive Director Commissioning and Community Services
Waitematā District Health Board**