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30 April 2020

9(2)(a)

**RE Official information request CDHB 10284**

We refer to your email dated 27 February 2020 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act from Canterbury DHB regarding the measles epidemic during 2019. Specifically:

- 1. The total cost to the DHB from the measles epidemic, between January 1 and December 31, 2019, broken down by the reasons for the costs**
- 2. The total number of measles-related presentations between January 1 and December 31, 2019, broken down by month**
- 3. The total number of measles-related admissions between January 1 and December 31, 2019, broken down by month**
- 4. The total number of measles-related ICU admissions and average bed days in ICU between January 1 and December 31, 2019, broken down by month**
- 5. The total of bed days recorded by the DHB due to measles-related illness, broken down by month.**

In the 2019 calendar year we had a total of 29 patients who were treated at Christchurch Hospital for Measles.

23 patients presented at the Emergency Department, of which 10 were admitted to hospital for further treatment. In addition to those 10 admissions, six patients were admitted to Christchurch Hospital directly from the community, giving a total of 16 patients admitted to hospital.

The average length of stay of those patients was 2.6 days with three of the 16 patients spending a short time in ICU (average of 0.9 days each).

Total costs of treating these patients is estimated at \$62,591 (including direct costs & overheads).

**Laboratories/testing** - The total costs of Measles pathology testing for Canterbury DHB for calendar year 2019 was \$249,244

Please refer to **Table one** (overleaf).

**Table one**

Measure	Arrival Month												
	Total	Jan-19	Feb-19	Mar-19	Apr-19	May-19	Jun-19	Jul-19	Aug-19	Sep-19	Oct-19	Nov-19	Dec-19
ED - Fully Absorbed Cost (Direct Costs + Overheads)	\$6,900	\$ -	\$900	\$4,200	\$600	\$ -	\$ -	\$600	\$ -	\$300	\$300	\$ -	\$ -
Inpatient Cost - Based on CWD Fully Absorbed Price (Direct Costs + Overheads)	\$55,691	\$ -	\$7,531	\$39,286	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$874	\$ -	\$2,069	\$5,931	\$ -	\$ -
ED Presentation Only	13	-	-	9	2	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-
Admission to Hospital (via ED)	10	-	3	5	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-
Admission to Hospital (Direct)	6	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Number of Patients in ICU	3	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Bed days in ICU	2.7	-	1.7	1.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Average Bed Days per Patient in ICU	0.9	-	1.7	0.5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Average Bed days across the year in ICU	0.01	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Number of Admissions	16	-	3	10	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	-	-
Total Bed days in Hospital	41.6	-	13.5	20.2	-	-	-	0.5	-	0.9	6.6	-	-
Average Bed Days per Patient in Hospital	2.6	-	4.5	2.0	-	-	-	0.5	-	0.9	6.6	-	-
Average Bed Days across the year in Hospital	0.11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Laboratories/Testing</b>													
Total costs Measles pathology testing 2019 calendar year	\$249,244												

Please note that the figures above reflect hospital service costs only. There were significant costs in relation to the community and primary health response as well as the Community and Public Health communication and education campaign.

However we are unable to provide an accurate calculation of these costs as we either do not hold this information (i.e. costs around GP visits) or because of the substantial research and collation required in respect of Community and Public Health activity (i.e. the Public Health response involved large teams of people and to provide staffing costs associated with these teams we would need to go through rosters over the time frame requested to identify staff specifically working on the measles epidemic). We are therefore declining to provide this information pursuant to sections 18(g) and 18(f) of the Official Information Act.

**Please also note** there is a substantial amount of information already publicly available on The Institute of Environmental Science and Research's (ESR) website where you will find monthly tables of all notifiable diseases by DHB for all of 2019. [https://surv.esr.cri.nz/surveillance/monthly\\_surveillance.php](https://surv.esr.cri.nz/surveillance/monthly_surveillance.php).

I trust that this satisfies your interest in this matter.

You may, under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act, seek a review of our decision to withhold information by the Ombudsman.

Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://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 Canterbury DHB website after your receipt of this response.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carolyn Gullery', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Carolyn Gullery  
**Executive Director**  
**Planning, Funding & Decision Support**