

## CORPORATE OFFICE

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### RE Official Information Act request CDHB 10782

I refer to your email dated 24 November 2021 to the Ministry of Health which they subsequently transferred to us on 16 December 2021 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act from Canterbury DHB regarding opportunistic vaccinations. Specifically:

- 1. A list of all district health board emergency departments that have a policy to provide COVID -19 vaccinations to unvaccinated people (COVID-19 )who attend the emergency department.**

Canterbury DHB does not have any policies or plans of a nature related to your request.

Canterbury DHB does not differentiate between vaccinated and unvaccinated people of any age in providing healthcare – access remains open to both. Any people requiring urgent care are able and encouraged to seek attention regardless of vaccination status. As a DHB, we have actively promoted vaccination of outpatients and inpatients and strongly advocate for people to get vaccinated to help reduce associated risk and to minimise the need to be hospitalised for treatment as a result of Covid-19/Omicron.

The Emergency Department (ED) at Christchurch Hospital provides Covid vaccinations and strongly advocates the importance of being vaccinated.

- 2. A list of all district health board emergency departments, paediatric debarments or wards that have a policy to provide childhood immunisations to all unvaccinated children who attend the department or ward.**

Christchurch Hospital ED does not provide childhood vaccinations, but strongly advocates for these.

The Child Health Service asks parents / caregivers about their child's immunisation status when they are seen for admission or in outpatients and documents this in the child's health record. Where it is identified that children have not received all the immunisations on the national schedule available to them, staff discuss this with the parents/ caregivers. Opportunistic immunisation is offered and given with parental consent if the child's clinical condition is suitable. If immunisation is not able to be given in

hospital, staff will alert the child's General practitioner or make a referral to the Immunisation Outreach Service.

**3. What plan each district health board has to connect people or children not currently enrolled in primary care who attend the emergency department or other departments - in primary care (registered with a PHO) - currently only 84% of Māori are enrolled in primary care (PHO).**

The Emergency Department advertises walk-in clinics, Social workers, Maori Health workers who all advocate for this, as well as the nurses and doctors. We also have PCWs (Partnership Community Workers) – who can help patients who may be experiencing difficulties accessing primary health care. PCWs take an individualised approach to helping patients navigate the health system.

The Child Health Service provides support to parents / caregivers to enrol with primary care – if nursing / medical staff identify a child is not enrolled then options include referral to social workers to assist or referral to Partnership Community Workers.

I trust that this satisfies your interest in this matter.

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

  

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Ralph La Salle  
**Senior Manager, OIAs**  
**Canterbury DHB & West Coast DHB.**