

# Canterbury

District Health Board

Te Poari Hauora o Waitaha

## CORPORATE OFFICE

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19 December 2018

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### RE Official information request CDHB 9987

We refer to your email dated 28 November 2018 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act from Canterbury DHB.

**I have been tipped off from a source involved in public health that there has been an outbreak of a notifiable disease this year at Gloriavale Christian Community. We were wondering what sort of confirmation we could get of this? Specifically:**

- **When the outbreak was**

The outbreak occurred between 26<sup>th</sup> December 2017 and 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2018 (with the first cases being notified at the beginning of January).

- **What kind of outbreak it was**

It was an outbreak of invasive pneumococcal disease. This is a bacterial disease caused by the organism *Streptococcus pneumoniae* and it is a notifiable disease.

- **How many DHB staff were sent to Gloriavale/Involved in the response?**

Four staff (three from the West Coast DHB and one from Community and Public Health's West Coast office) made a visit to Gloriavale during the outbreak.

As is usual practice in any communicable disease outbreak, staff from Community and Public Health formed an outbreak response team. They also sought technical advice from DHB clinical microbiologists and paediatricians.

- **How many patients were involved?**

There were five patients involved, all children under 13 years of age.

- **If there were any problems with accessing the community and providing medical care to patients**

There were no problems accessing the community and providing medical care to the patients. The Gloriavale community welcomed the assistance provided by the West Coast DHB and the patients all received the medical treatment necessary for their illnesses.

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 West Coast 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 flourish extending to the right.

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