

CORPORATE OFFICE

Level 1
32 Oxford Terrace
Christchurch Central
CHRISTCHURCH 8011

Telephone: 0064 3 364 4134
Kathleen.Smithram@cdhb.health.nz

14 December 2021

9(2)(a)



RE Official Information Act request CDHB 10764

I refer to your email dated 27 November 2021 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act from Canterbury DHB, being a follow up request to our response for CDHB 10746 relating to the incidence of stillbirths and neonatal deaths in Canterbury during 2021. Specifically:

- 1. Please supply the Covid 19 vaccination status for every Canterbury DHB mother who has experienced a stillbirth or a neonatal death in 2021.**
- 2. Please provide the date of Covid 19 vaccination receipt (and if it was a first or second dose) and the date of the stillbirth or neonatal death for each mother.**

Canterbury DHB is committed to protecting the privacy of our clients and we are therefore declining your request pursuant to section 9(2)(a) of the Official Information Act i.e. "...to protect the privacy of natural persons, including those deceased".

The Canterbury DHB cares for approximately 6000 pregnant people each year. If you catch COVID-19 when you are pregnant, you are more likely to become very unwell.

Millions of pregnant people have been vaccinated around the world and data shows no evidence that the vaccine is associated with an increased risk of miscarriage during pregnancy. No additional safety concerns have been raised.

The vaccine protects the pregnant person as they are far less likely to fall seriously ill. It also protects the baby as there is evidence that babies can get antibodies through the placenta that help protect them from COVID-19.

Lead maternity carers (LMCs) and midwives across Canterbury have been running a series of education sessions to encourage pregnant and breastfeeding people to get vaccinated before the end of the year. LMCs, core midwives, and the team from the Immunisation Advisory Centre have been supporting these education sessions and this is an opportunity to have a kōrero and ask questions around the vaccine with trusted people in a familiar space.

We also refer you to the Ministry of Health website (link below) which relates to ***Covid-19: Pregnant women and those who have recently given birth.***

<https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-information-specific-audiences/covid-19-pregnant-women-and-those-who-have-recently-given-birth>

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; 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 'Tracey Maisey', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Tracey Maisey
Executive Director
Planning, Funding & Decision Support