

26 January 2022

Request for Official Information responded to under the Local Government and Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA) – reference: OIR 2122-172

I refer to your information request we received on 17 January 2022 for the following:

- 1. How many community cases of COVID 19 have been in Kapiti since the pandemic started?**
- 2. How many of these community cases died as a result of COVID 19?**
- 3. How many of these people were vaccinated and unvaccinated?**

As per our email to you on 21 January 2022, questions 1,2 and 3 of your request have been transferred to CCDHB and MidCentral DHB for direct response to you. The transfer was made pursuant to Section 12 of the Act on the basis that the information requested is held by those agencies.

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

4. I would like a copy of the KCDC response plan for a COVID 19 outbreak.

Council has been responding to support and protect the community through the ongoing changes to our lifestyle caused by COVID-19 by regularly assessing the COVID-19 website and mirroring the guidance and recommendations issued by the Ministry of Health and central government, including the previous Alert Level system and now the Protection Framework and apply those requirements to our business.

A response plan is being worked on by staff based on the guidance and recommendations from the Ministry of Health and central government. This has not yet been completed as the post COVID landscape has changed rapidly requiring additional work in this space.

5. How is the KCDC able to respond with accurate information to the local community when it is still exploring options for Kapiti residents without a COVID vaccine pass unable to access KCDC facilities?

The Council is guided by advice from the Government. On the Council website we provide links to the Ministry of Health and COVID-19 websites.

Council media releases and public notices are provided through various channels.

6. Did the KCDC considered its health and safety responsibilities when making its policy to deny KCDC ratepayers without a COVID vaccine pass access to KCDC facilities? If no, why not? If yes, what was the advice and I would like a copy of the advice?

The operational decision to require a vaccine pass at many of our facilities was made by Council's Senior Leadership Team. The decision was made in order to protect the community's vulnerable members (older persons, children under 12 years not vaccinated and immune compromised persons) that would be using the Council facilities. As a Council we are committed to doing as much as we can to protect our staff and communities as we transition to living with COVID-19.

Council is clear about its responsibilities so external advice was not required.

7. With the holiday drownings at a 40-year high, is the KCDC committed to keeping the national drowning levels at current rates by continuing to deny unvaccinated people the opportunity to learn to swim?

Council continues to support learn to swim providers at all of our facilities to keep our community safe. Council also provides annual funding to Surf Lifesaving New Zealand.

Yours sincerely



Mark de Haast
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Te Kaihautū Ratonga Tōpū