



West Coast District Health Board

Te Poari Hauora a Rohe o Tai Poutini

Corporate Office
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25 March 2020

9(2)(a)

RE Official information request WCDHB 9403

We refer to your email dated 27 February 2020 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act from West Coast 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.***

Response:

West Coast DHB had no confirmed measles cases in 2019; so that the answer to your questions above in relation to confirmed measles cases for the period 1 January to 31 December 2019 is nil. There was just one person who presented to our Emergency Department with a rash that was queried for possible measles, but this proved negative and related to another condition.

In respect of Question 1, the Public Health and primary care response preparation to gear up for potential outbreak on the West Coast involved large teams of people both locally, and supported by personnel from Canterbury. To provide staffing costs associated with these teams we would need to go through rosters and individual diaries over the timeframe requested to identify staff specifically working on preparation for potential measles epidemic outbreak in our district. Much of this time would be periodic - spread among other routine work related duties and workload; so to try to determine or estimate the cost of time spent in this regard would be difficult, if at all even possible. We therefore decline to answer this aspect of your request to determine cost to the West Coast DHB for this work under section 18(f) of the Official Information Act, that the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.

Monthly data about measles and other notifiable disease cases and hospitalisations for DHBs are readily publicly available on the Institute of Environmental Science and Research's (ESR) Public Health Surveillance website: https://surv.esr.cri.nz/surveillance/monthly_surveillance.php

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 'Gullery', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Carolyn Gullery
Executive Director
Planning, Funding & Decision Support