



West Coast District Health Board

Te Poari Hauora a Rohe o Tai Poutini

Corporate Office
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17 April 2020

9(2)(a)

RE Official information request WCDHB 9413

We refer to your email dated 30 March 2020 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act from West Coast DHB.

Can I please request details as to how the flu vaccine was rolled out among hospital staff this year?

- ***Which staff were done first***
- ***Which wards (staff) were done first***
- ***When was corporate done***
- ***Are partners of frontline workers being offered the vaccine? Were they offered it in the past?***

The West Coast District Health Board (WCDHB) has sourced consignments of influenza vaccines for its DHB staff vaccination programme as well as ongoing supplies for wider distribution in the community. This is an ongoing process and is continuing as part of a progressive nation-wide distribution of influenza vaccines.

With specific regard to the staff vaccination programme, the initial vaccines that arrived at Grey Hospital were deployed for clinical staff in the Emergency Department, Radiology, Medical Technician Department and Laboratory. DHB staff at Grey Base Hospital, who were vaccinated, met the Ministry of Health's clinical vaccination requirement to be staff members who have face to face contact with patients, those who were over 65 years, who are pregnant or who live with one of the eligible chronic medical conditions.

Stocks were also distributed to Westport, Reefton and Hokitika for DHB Vaccinators to undertake their own local staff programme for those meeting the Ministry of Health's clinical eligibility requirements. The DHB staff vaccination programme has always worked in partnership with several other health providers in our wider health system. Therefore St John, Community & Public Health, West Coast Primary Health Organisation, visiting medical staff e.g. specialists, student nurses etc.; who met the criteria were also included in the programme. Additional stocks on hand have also given a number of primary practices vaccines to ensure the West Coast's most vulnerable populations receive their vaccinations in a timely manner, pending progressive arrivals and distributions of additional vaccine stocks. These include vaccines used at a number of the West Coast aged care centres.

At the time of writing (1 April 2020), West Coast DHB's Corporate Service will not be offered vaccination as a service until after 13 April 2020, in line and coinciding with the general public vaccination programme for the West Coast; pending any re-prioritisation of vaccines or other direction that may be made by the Ministry of Health in the meantime.

The West Coast DHB has been proactive for a number of years in offering the Influenza vaccine free to both staff and their partners. Parents have paid a minimal charge if they wanted their children also vaccinated. The clinically non-eligible employees, partners and children programme this year will not start until after 13 April 2020, in line and coinciding with the general public vaccination programme for the West Coast; pending any re-prioritisation of vaccines or other direction that may be made by the Ministry of Health in the meantime.

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 stylized flourish at the end.

Carolyn Gullery
Executive Director
Planning, Funding & Decision Support