

23 March 2023

P McKenna

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Tēnā koe P

**Your request for Official information, reference: HNZ00011574**

Thank you for your email on 15 February, asking for the following which has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

*1)“For children aged 0-9 years (inclusive) in NZ and for the period 1 January to 30 September 2022 (inclusive):*

*1)Please supply the number of Hospitalisations with a Covid Positive test result within the 28 days prior to, or during admission. Please supply numbers by vaccination status (unvaccinated, 1 dose, completed primary course, and boosted)*

*2)Please supply the number of Hospitalisations where Covid-19 was the cause or contributing cause. Please supply numbers by vaccination status. Please also supply the same information as above separately for the period 1 January to 31 December 2022*

*For clarity, 1) above refers to the original classification of Covid-19 hospitalisation prior to July 2022, and 2) refers to the current classification. Please do not break down by month but give data for the whole period.”*

The number of children aged 5-9 years hospitalised with a Covid-19 positive test result or as a result of Covid-19 by vaccination status between 1 January 2022 and 30 September 2022 can be found in Table 1 below.

This is followed by Table 2 which outlines the number of children aged 0-4 years hospitalised with a Covid-19 positive test result or as a result of Covid-19 between 1 January 2022 and 30 September 2022.

Table 3 provides information on the number of children ages 5-9 years hospitalised with a Covid-19 positive test result or as a result of Covid-19 by vaccination status between 1 January 2022 and 31 December 2022.

This is followed by Table 4 which outlines the number of children aged 0-4 years hospitalised with a Covid-19 positive test result or as a result of Covid-19 between 1 January 2022 and 31 December 2022.

**Table 1: Number of Covid-19 hospitalisations of children 5-9 years by vaccination status, 1 January 2022 – 30 September 2022.**

	Unvaccinated	One dose	Completed primary course of two doses	Total
Hospitalisations <b>with</b> a Covid-19 positive test result	279	183	51	513
Hospitalisations <b>due to</b> Covid-19	189	126	27	342

**Table 2: Number of Covid-19 Hospitalisations of children 0-4 years, 1 January 2022 - 30 September 2022**

	Children under 5 years
Hospitalisations <b>with</b> a Covid-10 positive test result	2232
Hospitalisations <b>due to</b> Covid-19	1773

**Table 3: Number of Covid-19 hospitalisations of children 5-9 years by vaccination status, 1 January - 31 December 2022**

	Unvaccinated	One dose	Completed primary course of two doses	Total
Hospitalisations <b>with</b> a Covid-19 positive test result	324	198	63	585
Hospitalisations <b>due to</b> Covid-19	213	138	36	387

**Table 4: Number of Covid-19 hospitalisations of children 0-4 years, 1 January - 31 December 2022**

	Children under 5 years
Hospitalisations <b>with</b> a Covid-10 positive test result	2802
Hospitalisations <b>due to</b> Covid-19	2256

When considering the data, it is important to note:

- The hospitalisation definitions only include children who either tested positive after admission to hospital, or in the 7 days prior to admission. The current reporting system does not capture data within the 28 days prior to admission.
- A column outlining the number of children hospitalised who have had a booster shot is not included in the above tables as children under 16 years are not eligible.
- The COVID-19 Vaccine Technical Advisory Group (CV TAG) does not currently recommend vaccination for children aged 6 months to 4 years who are not in risk categories for severe COVID-19. We cannot supply the number of hospitalisations with and due to Covid-19 by vaccination status for children under 5 years as the data is not collected in this way. Please refer to the link below for more information.

The numbers presented in the tables are also perturbed in order to preserve confidentiality. We apply two data confidentiality methods, **perturbation** and **suppression**, to any data that is not already released as exact counts on the Ministry's website.

**Perturbation** is the adding of random noise to data and **suppression** is not providing data, where doing so could compromise confidentiality.

For data that is not already provided exactly on the website:

- All values between 1 and 5 are suppressed
- Zero values are provided exactly, except for in sensitive categories where a zero value may be suppressed to protect other low values
- Values of 6 and above are perturbed using fixed random rounding to base 3 (FRR3).  
This entails rounding values to neighbouring multiples of 3. For example, 11 may be rounded to 12 or 9.

FRR3 is a best-practice confidentiality method recommended by Stats NZ.

For more information, visit:

<https://www.data.govt.nz/toolkit/privacy-and-security/understanding-data-confidentiality/data-confidentiality-principles-and-methods-report/>

**Examples:**

True value	Displayed value
4	.s (suppressed)
11	9 or 12
15	15
16	15 or 18
301	300 or 303

More information around children and the Covid-19 vaccines are publicly available on the Ministry of Health website linked below:

[COVID-19 vaccine: Ages 5 to 11 years old | Ministry of Health NZ](#)

[COVID-19 vaccine: Ages 6 months to 4 years old | Ministry of Health NZ](#)

### **How to get in touch**

If you have any questions, you can contact us at [hnzOIA@health.govt.nz](mailto:hnzOIA@health.govt.nz).

If you are not happy with this response, you have the right to make a complaint to the Ombudsman. Information about how to do this is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or by phoning 0800 802 602.

As this information may be of interest to other members of the public, Te Whatu Ora may proactively release a copy of this response on our website. All requester data, including your name and contact details, will be removed prior to release. The released response will be made available on our website.

Nāku iti noa, nā

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J. Rumball-Smith', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dr. Juliet Rumball-Smith  
**Director - Intelligence**  
**National Public Health Service**  
**Te Whatu Ora**