

14 April 2021

Amy Wiggins
NZME



100 Heads Road, Private Bag 3003
Whanganui 4540, New Zealand

Via email: Amy.Wiggins@nzme.co.nz

Dear Amy

Official Information Act Request - OIA 13404

On 19 March 2021, under section 12 of the Official Information Act, you requested the following information from Whanganui District Health Board (WDHB):

"I would like to request, under the Official Information Act, information about patients placed in isolation within DHB hospitals to prevent the spread of disease.

Could you please provide the following data in an excel spreadsheet?

- The number of patients placed in isolation in a DHB hospital in the 2018, 2019 and 2020 calendar years, broken down by year
- What condition each person had
- What type of isolation were they in - contact, droplet, airborne, protective etc.

Also, can you please tell me:

- What the longest stint in continuous isolation was during those three years, what condition it was for and what type of isolation they were in.
- What PPE and protocols are required for each type of isolation (contact, droplet, airborne, protective, etc)?
- How many of last year's cases were Covid-19 related?
- Did the emergence of Covid-19 cause changes to any of the PPE or protocols required?

Please can you acknowledge receipt of this request."

Whanganui District Health Boards response:

- **The number of patients placed in isolation in a DHB hospital in the 2018, 2019 and 2020 calendar years, broken down by year**

	2018	2019	2020
Airborne Precautions	19	25	29
Cohort Isolation	16	11	14
Contact Precautions	315	149	252
Droplet Precautions	170	572	439
Protective Isolation	37	31	50
TOTAL	557	788	784

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- **What condition each person had**
The reason for isolation is not coded therefore unable to be supplied.
- **What type of isolation were they in - contact, droplet, airborne, protective etc**
Supplied in table above
- **What the longest stint in continuous isolation was during those three years, what condition it was for and what type of isolation they were in.**
The patient was under contact precautions only.

Due to the size of this DHB details of this admission have been withheld under the OIA Act Section1 (9) 2a, as the person would be identifiable.

- **What PPE and protocols are required for each type of isolation (contact, droplet, airborne, protective)?**
 - o Standard precautions which include:
 1. Hand hygiene according to the WHO/NZ 5 moments
 2. Correct use of PPE for contact with body fluids
 3. Assessment of patient placement
 4. A clean environment inclusive of spill management
 5. Safe invasive device procedures and sharps safety
 6. Respiratory hygiene and cough etiquette.
 - o Single rooms are used.
 - o Contact precautions are standard precautions plus gloves and aprons if contact of patient or surrounds.
 - o Droplet precautions are standard precautions plus mask if within a meter of patient.
 - o Airborne precautions are standard precautions plus the use of a N95 mask.
- **How many of last year's cases were Covid-19 related?**
WDHB did not have any COVID positive cases.
- **Did the emergence of Covid-19 cause changes to any of the PPE or protocols required?**
No, however extra training in the use of PPE was provided both to hospital staff and our external providers.

Should you have any further queries about the above information, please contact our OIA co-ordinator Anne Phoenix at anne.phoenix@wdhb.org.nz

Yours sincerely



—Russell Simpson
Chief Executive