

29 August 2019



Lucy Drake  
NZME

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

**Via email:** lucy.drake@nzme.co.nz

Dear Lucy

### **Official Information Act Request – the Flu in Whanganui**

On 9 August 2019, under section 12 of the Official Information Act, you requested the following information from Whanganui District Health Board (WDHB):

I am doing a follow-up story on the admissions for influenza or an influenza type illness to Whanganui Hospital between June-July this year.

Could you please supply information to the following questions.

How many people have been admitted to Whanganui Hospital between June-July this year for influenza or an influenza type illness?

Out of those numbers, how many were children? (If possible could you please break down as far as preschoolers and babies)

What were the numbers like for admissions to Whanganui Hospital for influenza between June-July 2018?

Are these overall influenza numbers, higher, lower, or average for this time of year?

#### ***Whanganui District Health Board's response:***

**1. How many people have been admitted to Whanganui Hospital between June-July this year for influenza or an influenza type illness?**

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**2. Out of those numbers, how many were children? (If possible could you please break down as far as preschoolers and babies)**

Baby (<2yrs)	0
Preschool (>=2-<5yrs)	2
Youth (>=5- <18yrs)	3
Adult (>=18yrs)	16

**3. What were the numbers like for admissions to Whanganui Hospital for influenza between June-July 2018?**

Preschool (>=2-<5yrs)	1*
Adult (>=18yrs)	3*

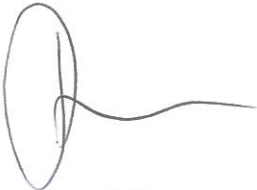
\*The test for Flu was not implemented until August 2018.

**4. Are these overall influenza numbers, higher, lower, or average for this time of year?**

As the Test for Flu was not implemented until August 2018 it is not possible to provide a comparative analysis with previous years.

Should you have any further queries about the above information, please contact our acting OIA co-ordinator Maree Langford at [Maree.Langford@wdhb.org.nz](mailto:Maree.Langford@wdhb.org.nz).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, loopy initial 'R' followed by a long, horizontal, wavy line that tapers off to the right.

Russell Simpson  
**Chief Executive**