

4 March 2020

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

## **YOUR OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT (1982) REQUEST HBDHB REF: OIA2020036**

I refer to your Official Information Act request dated 2 March 2020 where you requested information from Hawke's Bay District Health Board (HBDHB). Your questions and HBDHB's response is provided below:

1. ***How many ICU beds and negative pressure rooms do you have for potential coronavirus patients?***

Information about HBDHB's ICU and negative pressure isolation rooms is publicly available from the Ministry of Health's website: <https://www.health.govt.nz/news-media/news-items/covid-19-novel-coronavirus-update-25-february>. In addition, the DHB has the ability to utilise other clinical areas of the hospital and, if the need arose, to create a dedicated ward to care for COVID-19 (novel coronavirus) patients.

2. ***How many reports of potential coronavirus cases/people with symptoms has the DHB received?***

Hawke's Bay DHB has tested four people for suspect COVID-19 (novel coronavirus), all results have returned negative, none pending.

3. ***How many people in the DHB area are self isolating?***

Those people self-isolating are registered with Healthline not local public health units. You will need to request this data from the Ministry of Health.

4. ***How many people in the DHB area are being monitored?***

Please refer to the response provided to question 3 above; Hawke's Bay DHB is not currently monitoring any people with suspect COVID-19.

5. ***What specific contingency plans does the DHB have in place if an outbreak were to emerge?***

Hawke's Bay DHB established a COVID-19 incident management team which is meeting weekly. The DHB is monitoring developments and is receiving advice from the lead agencies, these being the Ministry of Health and the World Health Organization. Our planning is in line with the national Pandemic Plan; you can view Hawke's Bay DHB Pandemic Plan here: <http://hawkesbay.health.nz/about-us/emergency-response/pandemic-resources/>

6. ***Nurses can refuse to work if they are worried about their safety due to coronavirus. Does the DHB have sufficient staff to cope with potential cases? Have any staff refused to work over these fears?***

Hawke's Bay DHB's normal operational planning includes having enough staff rostered and on-call to account for staff illness and leave, including during periods of high demand.

Please refer the DHB's Pandemic Plan pages 39-41 for information regarding specific staff considerations, you can view the plan here:

<http://hawkesbay.health.nz/about-us/emergency-response/pandemic-resources/>

7. **What is the DHB doing to protect staff?**

Keeping our staff and patients safe is a key priority for HBDHB and we have comprehensive infection prevention and control guidelines for staff including:

- Health considerations for staff caring for patients with possible novel coronavirus, for example staff who are immunosuppressed, have diabetes.
- Minimisation of the risk of cross infection for support staff, for example – orderlies, nutrition and food service staff.
- Use of personal protective equipment (PPE) for staff caring directly with novel coronavirus patients.
- Post duty infection prevention and control measures including hygiene measures, surveillance requirements and accommodation options should they choose or request isolation from family/whānau for up to 14 days while they are caring for patients under novel coronavirus investigation.

8. **How is the DHB bracing for extra pressures from coronavirus, eg Are you taking on more agency staff? What is being put in place to mitigate capacity constraints with the busy winter season?**

Hawke's Bay DHB established a COVID-19 incident management team which is meeting weekly and in addition the DHB is continuing with its normal annual winter planning which includes having enough staff rostered and on-call, bed management and escalation plans to manage increased demand.

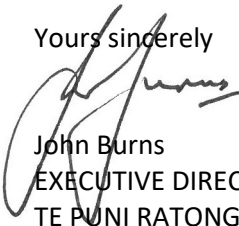
9. **- Are there any worries about hospital supplies/medication as a result of the virus? Eg are supplies still getting here? Is the DHB concerned about shortages of anything, if so what?**

Hawke's Bay DHB has undertaken a stocktake of critical supplies and at this point in time holds stock reserves equivalent to six weeks supply based on normal consumption. In addition the DHB holds in its local warehouse its share of the national pandemic resources. The DHB has no immediate concerns regarding supplies however this situation continues to evolve, with the need to monitor closely.

I trust this information meets your needs. If you would like any further information or clarification please phone me. If you are not satisfied with this response you may contact the Office of the Ombudsman, phone 0800 802 602.

Please note that this response, or an edited version of this response, may be published on the Hawke's Bay DHB website after your receipt of this response.

Yours sincerely



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