

4 March 2020

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
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Dear [REDACTED]

YOUR OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT (1982) REQUEST HBDHB REF: OIA2020038

I refer to your Official Information Act request dated 3 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 potential coronavirus cases and/or people with symptoms the DHB has received***
Hawke's Bay DHB has tested four people for suspect COVID-19 (novel coronavirus), all results have returned negative, none pending.
- 2. *How many people are self isolating in the DHBs area***
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.
- 3. *How many people are being monitored***
Please refer to the response provided to question 2 above; Hawke's Bay DHB is not currently monitoring any people with suspect COVID-19.
- 4. *How the DHB is preparing themselves for any extra staffing pressures, particularly over winter flu 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 to account for staff illness and leave.
- 5. *What DHB is doing to protect staff coming into contact with the virus***
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.

Please refer to HBDHB's Pandemic Plan pages 39-41 for information regarding staff

considerations. You can view the plan here:

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

6. ***Are there any worries about hospital supplies/medication as a result of the virus?***

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Burns', with a stylized flourish at the end.

John Burns
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PROVIDER SERVICES
TE PUNI RATONGA

cc: *Ministry of Health via email: SectorOIAs@moh.govt.nz
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