

26 March 2020

Attn: Dr Ashley Bloomfield
Director-General of Health and Chief Executive
Ministry of Health
PO Box 5013
Wellington 6140

Dear Dr Bloomfield,

Thank you for the Ministry of Health's 25 March response to our 2 March 2020 OIA request H202001095. We appreciated the links sent in your response; we suggest they might also be useful if added to the COVID-19 website (<https://covid19.govt.nz>).

We appreciate how busy you are at this time. We are writing to suggest, however, that making the information we requested public is critically important at this time. Given that New Zealand is now in lockdown, there is a small window to strengthen the healthcare supply chain before a possible surge in COVID-19 cases.

This data is important because it will enable the healthcare industry and manufacturers to understand what stock New Zealand has, what we require, and then map the difference. This enables New Zealand to pursue the following options before a possible surge in cases overwhelms our medical system. Options include:

1. Rationing/substituting products (e.g. disinfectant),
2. Manufacturing product in New Zealand (e.g. masks) and/or
3. Buying product from overseas (e.g. CT Scanners). We believe there may be up to 30 key medical items that are required and if we do not understand what we have, New Zealand could accidentally focus on one medical product at the expense of another.

To this end we have contacted DHBs to ascertain more detailed information on the location, quantity and quality of NRS items via an open letter on 25 March 2020 (attached). It is our hope that good supply chain analysis today will lead to a well-connected, integrated and effective road map to action.

We have developed a number of supply chain models that may be of use; please let us know if anyone in your team would like these.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further questions or comments.

Ngā mihi,



Wendy McGuinness
Chief Executive

Attachment 1: Open letter to DHBs (25 March 2020)