

**From:** Wendy McGuinness wmcg@mcguinnessinstitute.org   
**Subject:** OIA: National Reserve Supply  
**Date:** 22 April 2020 at 6:36 PM  
**To:**  
**Cc:** oiagr@health.govt.nz, oiagr@moh.govt.nz

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Good afternoon,

Please treat this email as a request for information under the OIA.

Below is a series of questions regarding the national reserve supply (NRS). These questions relate to observations and outstanding issues that remain unresolved after publishing a think piece on the NRS earlier this month. The resulting think piece can be found [here](#): *Think Piece 33 – The Long Normal: Preparing the National Reserve Supply (NRS) for pandemic cycles*.

Given how busy you will be we have made the questions as specific as possible. They are based on the NRS composition detailed on [this webpage](#).

1. When do you next expect to update this webpage with the latest list of NRS (the most recent update is dated 28 January 2020)?
2. Can you provide us an up to date list of the NRS *composition* held by the MoH (i.e. anything after 28 January 2020 would be excellent)?
3. We are seeking clarification as to whether the H5N1 pre-pandemic influenza pandemic meets the description provided (see first row on the NRS table on the [MoH website](#)) and whether it has expired:
  - a. We understand that the vaccine no longer works as the virus mutated very quickly after it was purchase – meaning the vaccine is no longer effective. Is this true?
  - b. If yes, we wonder why it is still included on the NRS list. It states it is ‘expected to provide some level of protection against a human H5N1. Should it be removed?
  - c. We also note the H5N1 vaccine's expiry is 2020. What month does it expire? Should it be removed?
4. We note that the antibiotics on the NRS were purchased during the years 2005-2007. Based on our knowledge, all antibiotics purchased during this time will have expired.
  - a. Can you advise if these antibiotics have been replaced?
  - b. When was the last time a review of ‘antibiotic stock’ was carried out by the MoH? If you can specify the year, that would be great?
  - c. Please provide a list of the antibiotics on the list (it notes they were for ‘treatment of respiratory infections’)? If yes, please provide a comprehensive list with stock numbers? If there is no list, can you advise who might have the list and stock held (e.g. DHB’s or Pharmac)?
5. Can you provide the number of each type of mask (i.e. P2/N95 or surgical)? And if P2/N95, the sizes you have in stock (e.g. L, M or S)? This can be ‘as at’ any time within the last few months. We envisage this information will have been prepared for officials and will therefore be easy to provide.

6. Can you provide the number of each type of gloves (e.g. nitrile and whether the gloves are long over the sleeve or short )? And the sizes you have in stock (e.g. L, M or S) for each type of gloves? This can be 'as at' any time within the last few months. We envisage this information will have been prepared for officials and will therefore be easy to provide.

You may be interested in our excel on the MoH stocktake (see [here](#)). We have marked in red font a number of issues that remained outstanding. This might help explain our interest in the above information.

Our concern is that we must work hard to ensure New Zealand is well prepared for every eventuality. For example, in addition to COVID-19, we might also see an influenza epidemic (or even an influenza pandemic) later this year. The Institute focuses on low probability/high magnitude events and sometimes these happen one after the other.

Thank you for your help.

Kind regards,

Wendy



**Wendy McGuinness**  
Chief Executive

**MCGUINNESS INSTITUTE**  
Level 2, 5 Cable Street, Wellington 6011 | PO Box 24-222 Wellington 6142  
+64 4 499 8888 | [wmcg@mcguinnessinstitute.org](mailto:wmcg@mcguinnessinstitute.org) | [www.mcguinnessinstitute.org](http://www.mcguinnessinstitute.org)

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