

29 March 2022

Wendy McGuinness

By email: [wmcg@mcguinnessinstitute.org](mailto:wmcg@mcguinnessinstitute.org)  
Ref: H202203391

Tēnā koe Wendy

### **Response to your request for official information**

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) to the Ministry of Health (the Ministry) on 1 March 2022 for information related to the Composition of the National Reserve Supply (NRS). I will respond to each part of your request in turn:

*Since January 2017, how many times has the NRS composition been publicly updated (and on what dates)?*

The Ministry's web page for the NRS composition has been updated four times since 2017. The dates for each update have been outlined below:

- 20 June 2017
- 28 January 2020
- 26 August 2020
- 13 August 2021

*Can you provide the detailed composition (in a pdf or equivalent) of every change since January 2017? Note: This should include the date updated for attachments 2 to 3 above, as well as any others we may have missed. We would appreciate good quality copies for uploading on to our website.*

The three attachments you provided with your OIA request are the final versions of the updates made to the NRS composition on the following dates: 13 August 2021 (attachment 1), 26 August 2020 (attachment 2), and 28 January 2020 (attachment 3).

One document has been identified within scope of this part of your request. Please find this attached. It is a copy of the web version of the 20 June 2017 NRS composition. This document is released to you in full.

*When do you next expect to update the NRS (the latest update was 13 August 2021)?*

The Ministry endeavours to regularly update this web page when changes are required to the page; however, at this stage no changes are required. Any future changes will be made publicly available on the Ministry's website at: [www.health.govt.nz/our-work/emergency-management/national-reserve-supplies/composition-national-reserve-supply](http://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/emergency-management/national-reserve-supplies/composition-national-reserve-supply).

*What guidance or protocol do you refer to when deciding the type of product to be included (or excluded) from the NRS? Please provide a link to the guidance/s or protocol/s.*

Clinical guidance on the composition of the NRS is sought from technical advisory groups at the time depending on the nature of the item. Any item must either meet the specific New Zealand regulatory requirements for use and/or the relevant New Zealand Standards depending on the nature of the item.

I trust this information fulfils your request. Under section 28(3) of the Act, you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review any decisions made under this request. The Ombudsman may be contacted by email at: [info@ombudsman.parliament.nz](mailto:info@ombudsman.parliament.nz) or by calling 0800 802 602.

Please note that this response, with your personal details removed, may be published on the Ministry of Health website at: [www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/information-releases](http://www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/information-releases).

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'D Woodley'.

Deborah Woodley  
**Deputy Director-General**  
**Population Health and Prevention**

## Composition of the national reserve supply

The national reserve supply is made up as follows.

Item	Description	Volume	Year of purchase	Year of expiry	Related documents
H5N1 pre-pandemic influenza vaccine	The vaccine can reasonably be expected to provide some level of cross-protection against a human H5N1 virus	150,000 courses (300,000 doses)	2013	2016	National Health Emergency Plan: H5N1 Pre-Pandemic Vaccine Usage Policy
Antiviral medication (Tamiflu and Relenza)	Clinically indicated antivirals may shorten the duration and reduce the severity of the symptoms caused by influenza viruses. We store 2 different types of antivirals to provide an alternative for persons who are unable to take one of	Note: The original purchase of Tamiflu stock occurred in 2005/06. This stock has expired and been replaced. Current stock as follows:			National Health Emergency Plan: National Reserve Supplies
		Tamiflu			
		586,400 courses	2012	2018	
		263,200 courses	2013	2019	
		263,200 courses	2014	2024	
		Relenza			
		97,148 courses	2016	2026	

Item	the Description	Volume	Year of purchase	Year of expiry	Related documents
		132,732 courses	2014	2021	
<b>Respiratory PPE (Masks)</b>	A mixed composition of general purpose and P2 Masks	17 million units compiled of 20% P2 / 80% general purpose.	2006–08	No formal expiry date, batches tested annually for efficacy	National Health Emergency Plan: National Reserve Supplies
<b>Vaccination supplies (syringes and sharps bins)</b>	Supplies adequate to support an H5N1 pre-pandemic vaccination campaign	300,000 syringes 40,000 sharps bins	2013	2018	National Health Emergency Plan: H5N1 Pre-Pandemic Vaccine Usage Policy
<b>Body bags</b>	For adverse events and as part of the mass casualty action plan	24,700	2007	No formal expiry date	National Health Emergency Plan: Mass casualty action plan
<b>Antibiotics</b>	Antibiotics suitable for treatment of bacterial respiratory infections	Volume varies by DHB, based on individual DHB requirements	2005–07		National Health Emergency Plan: National Reserve Supplies

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Item	Description	Volume	Year of purchase	Year of expiry	Related documents	Document 1
<b>DHB stored PPE</b>	Contingency supply of critical clinical supplies, should normal supply chain be disrupted or an increased supply needed due to an adverse event (such as a pandemic)	Volume and specific composition varies by DHB, based on individual DHB requirements	2005–07	Varies by DHB – management of the supply is the responsibility of each DHB		
<b>Disposable linen</b>	Contingency for adverse event where linen supply chain disrupted	2,000	2013	2016		
		2,000	2014	2016		