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7 April 2026

Wendy McGuinness

By email: [REDACTED]

Ref: H2026079431

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 – Manatū Hauora (the Ministry) on 2 March 2026 for information regarding Ministry pandemic-management publications. Please refer to each part of your request below:

“We are currently preparing the third edition of COVID-19 Nation Dates.

Q1: Please provide a list of all Ministry of Health pandemic-management publications in effect as of 1 January 2026?

You can find the Ministry’s current pandemic publications on our website:

- www.health.govt.nz/strategies-initiatives/programmes-and-initiatives/emergency-management/pandemics
- www.health.govt.nz/strategies-initiatives/programmes-and-initiatives/emergency-management/pandemics/preparing-for-future-pandemics
- www.health.govt.nz/strategies-initiatives/programmes-and-initiatives/emergency-management/pandemics

Q2: Please provide a list of all other Ministry of Health pandemic-management publications that were in effect as at 1 January 2020? You might find our tentative list from our second edition useful, see below.

In addition to the table from the second edition of *COVID-19 Nation Dates* you have cited in your request, please refer to Appendix 1 of this letter. Some information has been deemed out of scope of your request (i.e. are not Ministry publications). This document is the reference list from the document titled *New Zealand Influenza Pandemic Plan: A Framework for action* from August 2017. Please note some links may be outdated and no longer assessable and/or removed due to general archiving purposes.

Appendix 2 is an archived version of the Ministry’s old site which listed numerous pandemic publications on a single webpage from July 2024.

Other documents include:

- NHEP: Guiding Principles for Emergency Management Planning in the health sector (2005)
- The Communicable Disease Control Manual (2012)
- Finding Balance: Ethical guidance for epidemics and pandemics (2020)

- Finding Balance: Ethical guidance for epidemics and pandemics (2025)
<https://neac.health.govt.nz/publications-and-resources/neac-publications/finding-balance/>.
- New Zealand Pandemic Plan (interim update) published in July 2024:
www.health.govt.nz/strategies-initiatives/programmes-and-initiatives/emergency-management/pandemics/new-zealand-pandemic-plan

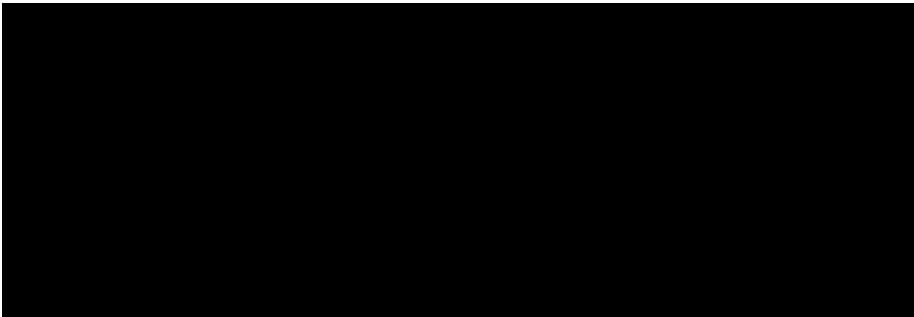
You may also be interested in Covid-19 publications which are included in this link:
www.health.govt.nz/strategies-initiatives/programmes-and-initiatives/covid-19.

I trust this information fulfils your request. If you wish to discuss any aspect of your request with us, including this decision, please feel free to contact the OIA Services Team on:
oiagr@health.govt.nz.

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 or by calling 0800 802 602.

Please note that this response, with your personal details removed, may be published on the Ministry website at: www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/information-releases/responses-official-information-act-requests.

Nāku noa, nā



References

These references are current as of 1 June 2017. Note that over the life of this Plan some publications and resources may be updated, or their web references modified. Go to the website of the Government agency concerned for updates.

Out of scope

Out of scope

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

Ministry of Health. 2005a. *National Health Emergency Plan: Guiding principles for emergency management planning in the health and disability sector 2005*. Wellington: Ministry of Health. URL: www.health.govt.nz/publication/national-health-emergency-plan-guiding-principles-emergency-management-planning-health-and

Ministry of Health. 2005b. *National Health Emergency Plan: Hazardous substances incident hospital guidelines 2005*. Wellington: Ministry of Health. www.health.govt.nz/publication/national-health-emergency-plan-hazardous-substances-incident-hospital-guidelines

Ministry of Health. 2006a. *Guidance for Infection Prevention and Control during an Influenza Pandemic*. Wellington: Ministry of Health. Under Review.

Ministry of Health. 2006b. *National Laboratory Guidelines for Pandemic Influenza: Collection and handling of human specimens for laboratory diagnosis of influenza with pandemic influenza*. Wellington: Ministry of Health. URL: www.health.govt.nz/publication/national-laboratory-guidelines-pandemic-influenza

- Ministry of Health. 2007. *Report on Exercise Cruickshank*. Wellington: Ministry of Health 2007. URL: www.health.govt.nz/publication/report-exercise-cruickshank
- Ministry of Health. 2008a. *Guidelines for Public Health Services on Cluster Control for Pandemic Influenza*. Wellington: Ministry of Health. URL: www.health.govt.nz/publication/guidelines-public-health-services-cluster-control-pandemic-influenza
- Ministry of Health. 2008b. *Guidance on Community-based Assessment Centres and Other Support Services*. Wellington: Ministry of Health. URL: www.health.govt.nz/publication/national-health-emergency-plan-guidance-community-based-assessment-centres-and-other-support
- Ministry of Health. 2010a. *Kia Mataara! Be Prepared!*. Wellington: Ministry of Health. URL: <https://www.health.govt.nz/resource/kia-mataara-be-prepared>
- Ministry of Health. 2012. *Communicable Disease Control Manual*. Wellington: Ministry of Health. URL: www.health.govt.nz/publication/communicable-disease-control-manual-2012
- Ministry of Health. 2013a. *National Health Emergency Plan: National reserve supplies management and usage policies. Third edition*. Wellington: Ministry of Health. URL: www.health.govt.nz/publication/national-health-emergency-plan-national-reserve-supplies-management-and-usage-policies-3rd-edition
- Ministry of Health. 2013b. *Being Prepared*. URL: www.health.govt.nz/your-health/healthy-living/emergency-management/being-prepared-pandemic
- Ministry of Health. 2013c. *National Health Emergency Plan: H5N1 pre-pandemic vaccine usage policy*. Wellington: Ministry of Health. URL: www.health.govt.nz/publication/national-health-emergency-plan-h5n1-pre-pandemic-vaccine-usage-policy
- Ministry of Health. 2015. *National Health Emergency Plan*. Wellington: Ministry of Health. URL: www.health.govt.nz/our-work/emergency-management/national-health-emergency-plan
- Ministry of Health. 2016a. *Pandemic Influenza: For the health sector*. URL: www.health.govt.nz/our-work/emergency-management/pandemic-planning-and-response/pandemic-influenza-guidance-health-sector
- Ministry of Health. 2016b. *Emergency Management*. URL: www.health.govt.nz/your-health/healthy-living/emergency-management
- Ministry of Health. 2016c. *Framework for psychosocial support in emergencies*. Wellington: Ministry of Health. URL: www.health.govt.nz/publication/framework-psychosocial-support-emergencies
- Ministry of Health. 2016d. *Responding to Public Health Threats of International Concern at New Zealand Air and Sea Ports: Guidelines for Public Health Units*. URL: <https://www.health.govt.nz/system/files/documents/publications/responding-public-health-threats-international-concern-nz-air-sea-ports-aug16.pdf>
- Ministry of Health. 2017a. *New Zealand Influenza Pandemic Action Plan*. Wellington: Ministry of Health. URL: www.health.govt.nz/publication/new-zealand-influenza-pandemic-plan-framework-action
- Ministry of Health. 2017b. *Guidance on Infectious Disease Management under the Health Act 1956*. Wellington: Ministry of Health. URL: www.health.govt.nz/publication/guidance-infectious-disease-management-under-health-act-1956
- Ministry of Health. *Guidance on the Treatment and Care of New Zealanders in an Influenza Pandemic: Clinical pathways*. Wellington: Ministry of Health. On request.

Out of scope

Health sector pandemic influenza guidance

Pandemic influenza plans, policies and publications for the health sector.

The Ministry of Health is the lead agency for planning for and responding to pandemics on a national scale.

District health boards (DHBs) and their public health units are responsible for leading the planning and response to a pandemic at the local and regional level.

The Ministry of Health has developed plans, policies and guidance to support the health and disability sector to fulfil their responsibilities in a pandemic.

On this page:

- [New Zealand Pandemic Plan](#)
- [Related policies](#): National Reserve Supplies Usage, H5N1 Pre-Pandemic Vaccine Usage
- [Other publications](#): National Laboratory Guidelines, Getting Through Together, New Zealand Aotearoa Pandemic Response Policy for Aged Residential Care, and Six Principles for Safe Visiting and Social Activities in Aged Residential Care.

New Zealand Pandemic Plan

The New Zealand Pandemic Plan: A framework for action is intended for anyone involved in planning for or responding to a pandemic caused by respiratory-type pathogens. It also provides general information on pandemics and government planning for the New Zealand public. The plan details the specific roles and responsibilities of the health and disability sector in planning and response, and outlines the actions that need to be considered at each phase of a pandemic.

- Read more about the [New Zealand Pandemic Plan](#) ([/our-work/emergency-management/pandemics/new-zealand-pandemic-plan](#))
- Download a copy from the publications section: [New Zealand Pandemic Plan: A Framework for Action \(2024\)](#) ([/publication/new-zealand-pandemic-plan-framework-action](#))

Related policies

National Reserve Supplies Management and Usage Policies

The National Reserve Supplies Usage Policy document provides some details about New Zealand's national reserves of health supplies for use in health emergencies, and outlines policies for their use.

- [National Health Emergency Plan: National Reserve Supplies Management and Usage Policies](#) ([/publication/national-health-emergency-plan-national-reserve-supplies-management-and-usage-policies-3rd-edition](#))

H5N1 Pre-Pandemic Vaccine Usage Policy

The H5N1 Pre-Pandemic Vaccine Usage Policy document provides some details about New Zealand's supply of this vaccine, and outlines policies for its use.

- [National Health Emergency Plan: H5N1 Pre-Pandemic Vaccine Usage Policy](#). ([/publication/national-health-emergency-plan-h5n1-pre-pandemic-vaccine-usage-policy](#))

Other guidance and publications

National Laboratory Guidelines for Pandemic Influenza

The National Laboratory Guidelines for Pandemic Influenza are intended for use by health professionals and laboratory staff to ensure safe handling and collection of human specimens for diagnosis of influenza with pandemic potential.

- [National Laboratory Guidelines for Pandemic Influenza](#) ([/publication/national-laboratory-guidelines-pandemic-influenza](#))

Getting Through Together: Ethical Values for a Pandemic

Getting Through Together: Ethical Values for a Pandemic is guidance from the National Ethics Advisory Committee on ethical values for a pandemic. The emphasis is given to using shared values to assist people to care for themselves, their whānau and their neighbours, and using shared values to make decisions in situations of overwhelming demand

- [Getting Through Together: Ethical Values for a Pandemic](#) ([/publication/getting-through-together-ethical-values-pandemic](#))

New Zealand Aotearoa Pandemic Response Policy for Aged Residential Care

The purpose of the New Zealand Aotearoa Pandemic Response Policy for Aged Residential Care is to provide nationally consistent guidance for aged residential care (ARC) stakeholders to prepare for, prevent and respond to an epidemic or pandemic. The policy is principle-based and designed to be tailored to local environments.

- [New Zealand Aotearoa Pandemic Response Policy for Aged Residential Care](#) ([/publication/new-zealand-aotearoa-pandemic-response-policy-aged-residential-care](#))

Six Principles for Safe Visiting and Social Activities in Aged Residential Care

This publication supports rest home providers in the development of policies and procedures that enable safe visiting, social activities and outings in the context of viruses, such as SARS-CoV-2 which causes COVID-19. These six principles are underpinned by the recognition that ARC facilities are residents' homes. ARC facilities are expected to align their local policies and procedures with these Principles.

- [Six Principles for Safe Visiting and Social Activities in Aged Residential Care](#) ([/publication/six-principles-safe-visiting-and-social-activities-aged-residential-care](#))

Publications

- [New Zealand Influenza Pandemic Plan: A Framework for Action, 2017](#) ([/publication/new-zealand-influenza-pandemic-plan-framework-action](#)),
- [National Health Emergency Plan: National Reserve Supplies Management and Usage Policies](#) ([/publication/national-health-emergency-plan-national-reserve-supplies-management-and-usage-policies-3rd-edition](#)),
- [National Health Emergency Plan: H5N1 Pre-Pandemic Vaccine Usage Policy](#) ([/publication/national-health-emergency-plan-h5n1-pre-pandemic-vaccine-usage-policy](#)),
- [National Laboratory Guidelines for Pandemic Influenza](#) ([/publication/national-laboratory-guidelines-pandemic-influenza](#)),
- [Getting Through Together: Ethical Values for a Pandemic](#) ([/publication/getting-through-together-ethical-values-pandemic](#)),
- [New Zealand Aotearoa Pandemic Response Policy for Aged Residential Care](#) ([/publication/new-zealand-aotearoa-pandemic-response-policy-aged-residential-care](#)),
- [Six Principles for Safe Visiting and Social Activities in Aged Residential Care](#) ([/publication/six-principles-safe-visiting-and-social-activities-aged-residential-care](#)),