



17 April 2025

[REDACTED]

Kia ora [REDACTED]

Your Official Information Act request, reference: GOV-039133

Thank you for your email of 28 March 2025, asking for the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

1. We would like to know the number of applications by registered nurses and other nursing staff for occupationally acquired COVID19 infections for each of the last five calendar years.
2. The number of successful applications by registered nurses and other nursing staff for occupationally acquired COVID19 infections for each of the last five calendar years.
3. The number of applications by registered nurses and other nursing staff for occupationally acquired long COVID19 for each of the last five calendar years.
4. Number of successful applications by registered nurses and other nursing staff for occupationally acquired long COVID19 for each of the last five calendar years.
5. We would also like to request separate figures for registered nurses and other nursing staff for each of the above.
6. In addition to the information above we would like to know how much was awarded to each claimant, and the annual totals for each of the last five calendar years

Our response

ACC has received 16 work-related claims for COVID-19 infection from nursing and midwifery professionals in the last 5 calendar years. These claims were lodged between 2020 and 2022 and no new claims meeting the criteria have been lodged since.

Of the 16 claims received, 12 were accepted for cover and four were declined.

We cannot separate midwives from nurses, and we are not able to identify whether a client is a registered nurse or another nursing professional.

Long COVID

ACC does not have a specific injury code or other data point to definitively identify a claim for Long COVID. Health NZ Te Whatu Ora advises that Long COVID is when the effects of COVID-19 last longer than 12 weeks.

Of the 12 accepted claims, seven claims were active (i.e. had a payment for some treatment, rehabilitation, or entitlements) 12 weeks or more after the claim was lodged. Note though that not all claims would have been lodged immediately after the client contracted COVID-19.

Claim costs

The total amount (excluding GST) that has been paid on these claims to date is \$76,746 and weekly compensation makes up 79% of that cost. The average cost - noting that not all claims incurred any costs - was about \$7,000 per claim.

Information we are unable to provide

ACC's records do not differentiate between registered nurses and other nursing staff. Therefore, we are refusing to provide a breakdown of such, as the information is not held. This decision was made under section 18(e) of the Act.

Due to the low claim counts we are withholding an annual breakdown of the data, as well as the cost for individual claims, to limit the potential for particular individuals, or matters specific to certain individuals, from being identified.

Withholding the information in this way is necessary to protect the privacy of individuals under section 9(2)(a) of the Act. In doing so, we have considered the public interest in making the information available, however it does not outweigh the need to protect the privacy of these persons.

Notes about the data

This data was extracted on 11 April 2025 and may differ if rerun at a later date.

Accredited Employer claims data

Many of the claims identified in this report are managed by Accredited Employers on behalf of ACC. The employer is responsible for making the cover decision on the claim, managing the employee's treatment and rehabilitation, and paying for associated costs.

Accredited Employers provide data to us each month about the claims that they manage, though the information they provide is more limited than the information we hold about claims that are managed by ACC.

Identifying COVID-19 claims

We have identified claims for COVID-19 where the claim has:

- an injury diagnosis of "A795. Coronavirus infection" OR
- an injury diagnosis of "AyuDC [X]Coronavirus infection, unspecified" OR
- keywords in the accident description:
 - "covid" or "coronavirus" AND
 - "contracted," "exposure," and similar.

The accident description is a free text field on the ACC45 claim lodgement form that is not mandatory to complete. The quality and quantity of information provided in this section varies significantly so information based on this field should be considered indicative only.

The accident description field is not available for Accredited Employer claims, so claims for Accredited Employers can only be identified based on the injury codes.

These claims were reviewed to exclude irrelevant claims e.g. those that mention "no recent covid exposure" or similar.

Other filters applied to the data

Claims were limited to work-related injuries – those where the claim is funded from the work account, or the claim lodgement form indicated the injury was sustained at work. Claims marked as duplicated were excluded from the data. Claims were included only if the occupation recorded on the claim is “Nursing & Midwifery Professional” or “Community Nurse.”

Cover status

For claims managed by Accredited Employers – which can only be identified if they have a specified injury code – we have counted the claim as accepted or declined based on the overall claim cover decision.

For claims managed by ACC, we have counted the claim as accepted if the claim cover decision is accept and the cover status of the specified diagnosis code on the claim is not declined. If the claim does not include one of the specified diagnosis codes (i.e. because it was identified by keywords only) we’ve used the overall claim cover decision, though we have manually checked those claims to confirm if they were accepted or declined for COVID-19.

Claim cost information

The costs provided in this report are exclusive of GST, and do not include the cost of acute stage treatment received in public hospital emergency departments. This treatment is provided under the Public Health Acute Services regulations and is funded by bulk payments made by ACC to the Crown, and these costs cannot be attributed to individual claims.

As this information may be of interest to other members of the public

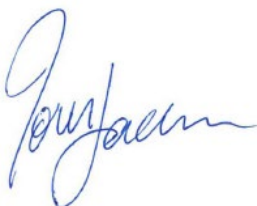
ACC may publish a copy of this response on ACC’s website. All requester data, including your name and contact details, will be removed prior to release. The released response will be made available www.acc.co.nz/resources/#/category/12. Please also view this page about making requests and our published responses <https://www.acc.co.nz/contact/official-information-act-requests>.

If you have any questions about this response, please get in touch

You can email me at GovernmentServices@acc.co.nz.

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Ngā mihi



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Government Engagement