



11 April 2022

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

### **Official Information Act Request**

The Ministry of Health transferred your Official Information Act request regarding COVID-19 admissions to Northland District Health Board on 22 March 2022.

*Please indicate what is your exact procedure for determining that hospital admissions in this current time are in fact directly due to covid.*

*le: are u testing people who are admitting themselves for something non respiratory related and if they test positive after admission for sars cov 2 are you listing it as a covid admission regardless*

*le: people who are admitted for something respiratory related that is later diagnosed as not sars cov 2, are you indicating them as covid hospitalizations if they return a positive test during admission.*

All patients presenting at Northland DHB facilities are screened for COVID-19 infection with a Rapid Antigen Test in the Emergency Department or Admission Unit.

Any patient admitted to an inpatient unit who has a positive RAT or we have a very high suspicion of COVID infection will also get a PCR test to confirm COVID-19.

Any patient deemed to have acute COVID-19 infection after this testing is counted as a COVID-19 admission. Some of these patients will be admitted to hospital primarily for other disease processes but incidentally also have acute COVID-19 infection at the same time. We manage both processes while they are in hospital in the appropriate isolation setting.

Northland DHB supports the open disclosure of information to assist public understanding of how we deliver our services. This includes proactive publication of anonymised Official Information Act responses on our website from 10 working days after they have been provided to you. Personal or identifying information will be redacted from any response published online. If you consider there are good reasons why this response should not be publicly available we will consider your views.

If you have any queries about Northland DHB's response to your information request please contact me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nick Chamberlain', with a long, sweeping tail extending to the right.

**Dr Nick Chamberlain**  
**Chief Executive**