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Official Information Act Request

Thank you for your email of 21 June 2022, pursuant to the Official Information Act (OIA) 1982 for information concerning pressure on hospitals during the winter season. I can respond as follows.

- **How many people have presented to Waikato Hospital Emergency Department (ED) each day over the past week?**

How does this compare to the same period last year or this time of year generally?

The information provided in the table below is a snapshot in time for the week of - Wednesday 15 June to Tuesday 21 June 2022, being the week that our team gathered the information for this response. This shows the actual number of patients presenting each day. We have also provided the average number of presentations per day over the previous 4 week period, 2022 calendar year to date and also the weekday average for 2021. The numbers overall have been fairly consistent.

Table 1: Presentations to the Waikato Hospital Emergency Department

Arrival Date	Patient Arrivals	Equivalent Weekday Average - Previous 4 weeks	Equivalent Weekday Average - 2022 Calendar Year	Equivalent Weekdays - 2021
Wednesday, 15 June 2022	269	262 +	218 +	233 +
Thursday, 16 June 2022	228	241 -	221 +	232 -
Friday, 17 June 2022	254	240 +	214 +	242 +
Saturday, 18 June 2022	211	235 -	206 +	236 -
Sunday, 19 June 2022	228	229 -	202 +	227 +
Monday, 20 June 2022	270	263 +	229 +	288 -
Tuesday, 21 June 2022	261	273 -	230 +	259 +

- **What capacity has Waikato Hospital been at over the past week?**

How does this compare to the same period last year or this time of year generally?

Please see attached Appendix One - Table 2 Bed Utilisation 15 June to 21 June 2022, showing the daily average capacity and utilisation calculations, based on patient numbers in Waikato Hospital wards at 7AM.

This information is inclusive of all Inpatient Wards, Paediatric Wards, Women's Health Wards, Critical Care (High Dependency Unit, Intensive Care Unit) and Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, and excludes Mental Health Wards.

- **For the T hospitals, is the situation similar?**

As noted above - please see attached Appendix One.

- **How prevalent is flu at the moment?**

Testing data indicates we have passed the peak for the Influenza A H3N2 strain and it is now becoming less prevalent, however we may yet see A H1N1 or one of the two Influenza B lineages (B Victoria or the less common B Yamagata) circulate later in the winter. RSV numbers are doubling each week but we would expect a longer, smoother curve than last year. Several other viruses are also circulating, particularly Rhinoviruses.

- **Are there any other illnesses that people are presenting with in increased numbers at the moment? If so, what are the illnesses, and about what proportion of / how many admissions do they represent?**

The number of patients presenting with corona virus has increased commensurate with the prevalence in the community during the recent outbreaks as expected.

Given increasing presentations across the period it is reasonable to assume that one or more diagnoses are increasing however, there is no increase in any single diagnosis to the extent it has been raised as a trend or concern at this time.

- **What is Waikato DHB's level of staff vacancy at the moment, and how does that compare to previous years?**

Te Whatu Ora - Waikato has a level of vacancy which is similar to previous years. This reflects both our normal staff turnover and increased funded FTE in some clinical services areas which are now being recruited to. For example we had 150 nursing vacancies as at 30 June 2021 and 161 as at 30 June this year. We do have positions that are more challenging to fill than others, and higher than normal staff illness remains a significant issue at this time.

- **Anything else / any health messages you wish to add**

Te Whatu Ora - Waikato have nothing further to add.

If you have any questions, you can contact us at oa_contact@waikatodhb.health.nz

If you are not happy with this response, you have the right to make a complaint to the Ombudsman. Information about how to do this is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or by phoning 0800 802 602.

As this information may be of interest to other members of the public, Health NZ has decided to proactively release a copy of this response on Health NZ's website. All requester data, including your name and contact details, will be removed prior to release. The released response will be made available here.

Yours sincerely



Christine Lowry (she/her)

**Interim District Co-Director | Tumu Whakahaere ā Takiwā
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Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa
New Zealand Government

Appendix One - Table 2 Bed Utilisation 15 June to 21 June 2022

Facility	2021							2022						
	15/06/2021	16/06/2021	17/06/2021	18/06/2021	19/06/2021	20/06/2021	21/06/2021	15/06/2022	16/06/2022	17/06/2022	18/06/2022	19/06/2022	20/06/2022	21/06/2022
Taumarunui														
Occupied Beds	6	5	5	3	5	4	2	7	5	4	7	9	9	6
Beds Plan	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Occupancy	112%	108%	93%	63%	100%	70%	44%	74%	47%	40%	74%	91%	92%	65%
Te Kuiti														
Occupied Beds	10	8	7	6	4	4	3	5	5	5	5	6	6	6
Beds Plan	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	12	12	12	12	12	12	12
Occupancy	121%	98%	89%	74%	53%	50%	39%	39%	38%	42%	45%	54%	51%	54%
Thames														
Occupied Beds	30	26	22	22	27	28	28	27	26	24	22	25	29	31
Beds Plan	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	25	25	25	25	25	25	25
Occupancy	86%	74%	63%	62%	77%	79%	80%	108%	106%	98%	89%	101%	114%	123%
Tokoroa														
Occupied Beds	13	13	13	15	14	11	12	14	15	14	14	14	14	13
Beds Plan	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17
Occupancy	77%	75%	75%	86%	83%	67%	68%	84%	88%	84%	81%	82%	80%	77%
Waikato														
Occupied Beds	640	662	660	657	609	629	652	632	628	627	570	568	600	609
Beds Plan	706	706	706	706	706	706	706	706	706	706	706	706	706	706
Occupancy	91%	94%	93%	93%	86%	89%	92%	90%	89%	89%	81%	80%	85%	86%

Notes:

Daily average calculation based on patient numbers in Waikato Hospital (5311) wards at 7AM.

Included Inpatient Wards, Paediatric Wards, Women's Health Wards, Critical Care (High Dependency Unit, Intensive Care Unit) and Neonatal Intensive Care Unit

Excludes Mental Health Wards.