

13 July 2020

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

YOUR OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT (1982) REQUEST HBDHB REF: OIA2020045

I refer to your Official Information Act request dated 13 March 2020 where you requested information from Hawke's Bay District Health Board (HBDHB). Your questions and HBDHB's response is provided below.

Refer to Appendix 1 – Raw Milk related cases; extract from EPIServ data and commentary provided to you by the Ministry for Primary Industries as part of their earlier OIA response to you. You have requested further information from HBDHB regarding the three Hawke's Bay region raw milk-related cases.

1. What information was sought from the "cases", themselves?

The following questions were asked of the cases:

- i. What were the case's symptoms, when did they start, and how long did the symptoms lasted for?
- ii. Was the case admitted to hospital?
- iii. Did the case consume food from a food premise during the incubation period?
- iv. In the 10 days before the onset of the illness, where and when did the case eat?
- v. Did the case consume raw (unpasteurised) milk or products made from raw milk during the incubation period? If yes, specify type of product (e.g milk, cheese, yogurt), brand, where obtained, and date consumed?
- vi. Did the case consume water other than regular supply (home or work/school/preschool) during the incubation period?
- vii. Drinking water supply
- viii. Before the case's illness did they have any problems with their domestic water supply?
- ix. Did the case consume untreated surface water, bore water or rain water during the incubation period?
- x. Did the case have recreational contact with water during the incubation period?
- xi. Any preschool aged children in cases household? If yes, are they receiving any care outside their home (eg childcare facility)?
- xii. Attendance at school, preschool or childcare?
- xiii. Did the case have contact with children in nappies, sewage or other types of faecal matter or vomit during the incubation period?
- xiv. Did the case have contact with farm animals during the incubation period?
- xv. Did the case have contact with sick animals during the incubation period?
- xvi. Was the case overseas during the incubation period?
- xvii. If the case has not been overseas recently, is there any prior history of overseas travel that might account for this infection?
- xviii. Cases asked if there any food in particular that they had eaten that they thought may have caused their illness.

xix. Does the case or any of the case's family member's work involve food handling, childcare, healthcare, animal contact or sewage contact?

2. What information was sought from other sources, and what were these other sources?

No information was sought from other sources.

3. What tests were used to establish that raw milk was the cause, or probable cause, of the illness?

No test was used to establish that raw milk was the cause, or probable cause of the illness.

4. What evidence did you rely on to ascertain that raw milk was the cause, or probable cause, of the illness?

Based on the response provided, logical deduction given the circumstances, determined raw milk was the cause.

5. What other foods did the "cases" consume that may have caused the illness?

One case consumed pre-packaged chicken during the incubation period.

6. What non-food sources were investigated as possible causes of the illness?

As noted in response to question 1 above, cases were asked about exposure to:

- a. Drinking water –common source and others used
- b. Recreational water
- c. Human contact
- d. Sick contacts
- e. Household members exposure to potential sources
- f. Contact with nappies/sewage/faecal matter/vomit
- g. Overseas travel
- h. Animal contact – farm animals or sick animals

7. What other possible sources of the illness were investigated to ascertain that they were not the cause, or probable cause, of the illness?

Aside from all the factors noted above no further potential sources were investigated.

I trust this information meets your needs. If you would like any further information or clarification please phone me. If you are not satisfied with this response you may contact the Office of the Ombudsman, phone 0800 802 602.

Please note that this response, or an edited version of this response, may be published on the Hawke's Bay DHB website after your receipt of this response.

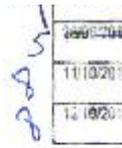
Yours sincerely



Patrick Le Geyt
ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HEALTH IMPROVEMENT & EQUITY
TE PUNI TUMATAWHĀNUI

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APPENDIX 1:



In New Zealand the identification and investigation of diseases are the responsibility of the Ministry of Health and its agents. Information on cases of illness where raw drinking milk is identified as a risk factor is notified to MPI by District Health Boards (DHBs). MPI does not assess the medical evidence to establish that consuming raw milk was a risk factor in notified cases of illness but is advised by DHBs.