

Our reference: **ACTHDFOI21-22.42**

Dear [REDACTED]

### **DECISION ON YOUR ACCESS APPLICATION**

I refer to your application under section 30 of the *Freedom of Information Act 2016* (FOI Act), received by ACT Health Directorate (ACTHD) on **Wednesday 16 February 2022**.

This application requested access to:

*'All documents prepared in relation to providing a media statement to The Canberra Times on Thursday, February 3 2022 regarding the vaccination statuses of people in the ACT who had died from COVID-19 in January 2022.*

*This request includes draft responses and correspondence relating to the request.'*

I am an Information Officer appointed by the Director-General of ACT Health Directorate (ACTHD) under section 18 of the FOI Act to deal with access applications made under Part 5 of the Act. ACTHD was required to provide a decision on your access application by **Thursday 17 March 2022**.

I have identified 33 documents holding the information within scope of your access application. These are outlined in the schedule of documents included at [Attachment A](#) to this decision letter.

#### **Decisions on access**

I have decided to grant partial access to 33 documents. My access decisions are detailed further in the following statement of reasons and the documents released to you are provided as [Attachment B](#) to this letter.

In reaching my access decision, I have taken the following into account:

- The FOI Act;
- The contents of the documents that fall within the scope of your request;
- The views of relevant third parties; and
- The *Human Rights Act 2004*.

#### **Public Interest Factors Favouring Disclosure**

The following factors were considered relevant in favour of the disclosure of the documents:

- Schedule 2, 2.1(a)(i) promote open discussion of public affairs and enhance the government's accountability; and
- Schedule 2, 2.1(a)(ii) contribute to positive and informed debate on important issues or matters of public interest.

### Public Interest Factors Favouring Non-Disclosure

The following factors were considered relevant in favour of the non-disclosure of the documents:

- Schedule 2, Schedule 2.2 (a)(ii) prejudice the protection of an individual's right to privacy or any other right under the Human Rights Act 2004.

The documents contain information that I consider, on balance, to be contrary to the public interest to disclose under the test set out in section 17 of the Act as the information contained in these folios is partially comprised of personal information. The redacted information contains mobile phone numbers and email addresses of both ACT and non-ACT government employees. In addition, some redactions have been made where the disclosure of this information may potentially identify the relevant individuals.

Therefore, I have decided this factor outweighs the public interest factors in the disclosure of this information.

### **Charges**

Processing charges are not applicable to this request.

### **Disclosure Log**

Under section 28 of the FOI Act, ACTHD maintains an online record of access applications called a disclosure log. The scope of your access application, my decision and documents released to you will be published in the disclosure log not less than three days but not more than 10 days after the date of this decision. Your personal contact details will not be published.

<https://www.health.act.gov.au/about-our-health-system/freedom-information/disclosure-log>.

### **Ombudsman review**

My decision on your access request is a reviewable decision as identified in Schedule 3 of the FOI Act. You have the right to seek Ombudsman review of this outcome under section 73 of the Act within 20 working days from the day that my decision is published in ACT Health's disclosure log, or a longer period allowed by the Ombudsman.

If you wish to request a review of my decision you may write to the Ombudsman at:

The ACT Ombudsman  
GPO Box 442  
CANBERRA ACT 2601  
Via email: [ACTFOI@ombudsman.gov.au](mailto:ACTFOI@ombudsman.gov.au)  
Website: [ombudsman.act.gov.au](http://ombudsman.act.gov.au)

### **ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal (ACAT) review**

Under section 84 of the Act, if a decision is made under section 82(1) on an Ombudsman review, you may apply to the ACAT for review of the Ombudsman decision. Further information may be obtained from the ACAT at:

ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal  
Level 4, 1 Moore St  
GPO Box 370  
Canberra City ACT 2601  
Telephone: (02) 6207 1740  
<http://www.acat.act.gov.au/>

**Further assistance**

Should you have any queries in relation to your request, please do not hesitate to contact the FOI Coordinator on (02) 5124 9831 or email [HealthFOI@act.gov.au](mailto:HealthFOI@act.gov.au).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Toby Keene', written in a cursive style.

Toby Keene  
**Acting Executive Branch Manager**  
Public Health Operations, COVID-19

17 March 2022

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION SCHEDULE OF DOCUMENTS

Please be aware that under the *Freedom of Information Act 2016*, some of the information provided to you will be released to the public through the ACT Government's Open Access Scheme. The Open Access release status column of the table below indicates what documents are intended for release online through open access.

Personal information or business affairs information will not be made available under this policy. If you think the content of your request would contain such information, please inform the contact officer immediately.

Information about what is published on open access is available online at: <http://www.health.act.gov.au/public-information/consumers/freedom-information>

APPLICANT NAME	WHAT ARE THE PARAMETERS OF THE REQUEST	FILE NUMBER
[REDACTED]	<p><i>'All documents prepared in relation to providing a media statement to The Canberra Times on Thursday, February 3 2022 regarding the vaccination statuses of people in the ACT who had died from COVID-19 in January 2022.</i></p> <p><i>This request includes draft responses and correspondence relating to the request.'</i></p>	<b>ACTHDFOI21-22.42</b>

Ref Number	Page Number	Description	Date	Status Decision	Factor	Open Access release status
1.	1 – 4	Email – RE: Media inquiry: Vaccination statuses	25 January 2022	Partial Release	Schedule 2.2 (a)(ii) Privacy	Yes
2.	5 – 10	Email – RE: Media inquiry: Vaccination statuses	25 January 2022	Partial Release	Schedule 2.2 (a)(ii) Privacy	Yes
3.	11 – 14	Email – FW: Media inquiry: Vaccination statuses	25 January 2022	Partial Release	Schedule 2.2 (a)(ii) Privacy	Yes
4.	15 – 21	Email – FW: Media inquiry: Vaccination statuses	27 January 2022	Partial Release	Schedule 2.2 (a)(ii) Privacy	Yes
5.	22 – 27	Email – RE: Media inquiry: Vaccination statuses	27 January 2022	Partial Release	Schedule 2.2 (a)(ii) Privacy	Yes



6.	28 – 34	Email – RE: Media inquiry: Vaccination statuses	27 January 2022	Partial Release	Schedule 2.2 (a)(ii) Privacy	Yes
7.	35 – 41	Email – RE: Media inquiry: Vaccination statuses	27 January 2022	Partial Release	Schedule 2.2 (a)(ii) Privacy	Yes
8.	42 - 49	Email – RE: Media inquiry: Vaccination statuses	27 January 2022	Partial Release	Schedule 2.2 (a)(ii) Privacy	Yes
9.	50 – 55	Email – RE: Media inquiry: Vaccination statuses	27 January 2022	Partial Release	Schedule 2.2 (a)(ii) Privacy	Yes
10.	56 – 60	Email – RE: Media inquiry: Vaccination statuses	28 January 2022	Partial Release	Schedule 2.2 (a)(ii) Privacy	Yes
11.	61 – 62	Email – FW: Total hospitalisations/ICU for outbreak	28 January 2022	Partial Release	Schedule 2.2 (a)(ii) Privacy	Yes
12.	63 – 64	Email – RE: Total hospitalisations/ICU for outbreak	28 January 2022	Partial Release	Schedule 2.2 (a)(ii) Privacy	Yes
13.	65 – 66	Email – FW: Total hospitalisations/ICU for outbreak	28 January 2022	Partial Release	Schedule 2.2 (a)(ii) Privacy	Yes
14.	67	Email – Canberra Times   vaccination status in ICU	31 January 2022	Partial Release	Schedule 2.2 (a)(ii) Privacy	Yes
15.	68 – 70	Email – RE: Media inquiry: Vaccination statuses	31 January 2022	Partial Release	Schedule 2.2 (a)(ii) Privacy	Yes
16.	71 – 73	Email – RE: FOR FACT CHECK: Vaccination data response-14	1 February 2022	Partial Release	Schedule 2.2 (a)(ii) Privacy	Yes
17.	74 – 75	Email – FW: FOR FACT CHECK: Vaccination data response	1 February 2022	Partial Release	Schedule 2.2 (a)(ii) Privacy	Yes
18.	76 – 79	Email – RE: For clearance: Media response – vaccination status	1 February 2022	Partial Release	Schedule 2.2 (a)(ii) Privacy	Yes
19.	80 – 81	Email – Fwd: Vaccination data response	2 February 2022	Partial Release	Schedule 2.2 (a)(ii) Privacy	Yes
20.	82 – 85	Email – RE: Media inquiry: Vaccination statuses	2 February 2022	Partial Release	Schedule 2.2 (a)(ii) Privacy	Yes

21.	86 – 88	Email – RE: Vaccination data response	3 February 2022	Partial Release	Schedule 2.2 (a)(ii) Privacy	Yes
22.	89 – 92	Email – RE: Vaccination data response	3 February 2022	Partial Release	Schedule 2.2 (a)(ii) Privacy	Yes
23.	93 – 103	Email – RE: Vaccination data response	3 February 2022	Partial Release	Schedule 2.2 (a)(ii) Privacy	Yes
24.	104 – 107	Email – RE: Revised vaccination data response	3 February 2022	Partial Release	Schedule 2.2 (a)(ii) Privacy	Yes
25.	108 - 113	Email – RE: Media inquiry: Vaccination statuses	3 February 2022	Partial Release	Schedule 2.2 (a)(ii) Privacy	Yes
26.	114 – 115	Email with attachment – Media inquiry: Vaccination statuses	3 February 2022	Partial Release	Schedule 2.2 (a)(ii) Privacy	Yes
27.	116 – 117	Email – RE: FOR FACT CHECK: Vaccination data response edit from MO	3 February 2022	Partial Release	Schedule 2.2 (a)(ii) Privacy	Yes
28.	118 – 122	Email – RE: Media inquiry: Vaccination statuses	3 February 2022	Partial Release	Schedule 2.2 (a)(ii) Privacy	Yes
29.	123 – 130	Email – RE: Media enquiry – COVID-19 deaths	8 February 2022	Partial Release	Schedule 2.2 (a)(ii) Privacy	Yes
30.	131 – 136	Email – RE: Aged care deaths - Media inquiry: Vaccination statuses	18 February 2022	Partial Release	Schedule 2.2 (a)(ii) Privacy	Yes
31.	137 – 140	Email – RE: URGENT – NO, ACTUALLY URGENT Death numbers	18 February 2022	Partial Release	Schedule 2.2 (a)(ii) Privacy	Yes
32.	141 – 151	Email – FW: APPROVED -FW: Aged care deaths - Media inquiry: Vaccination statuses	18 February 2022	Partial Release	Schedule 2.2 (a)(ii) Privacy	Yes
33.	152 – 155	Email – RE: URGENT – NO, ACTUALLY URGENT Death numbers	18 February 2022	Partial Release	Schedule 2.2 (a)(ii) Privacy	Yes
<b>Total Number of Documents</b>						
<b>33</b>						

## Lowes, Shannon (Health)

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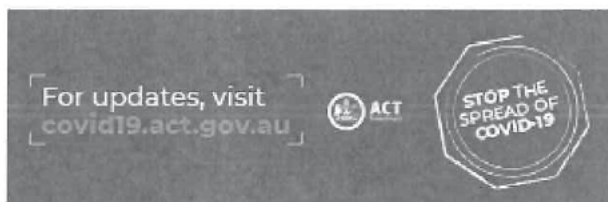
**From:** Smith, Louise on behalf of COVID-19 HECC Operations  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 25 January 2022 5:00 PM  
**To:** ACT Health Office of the Chief Health Officer; Hundy, Rebecca (Health); Walker, Robyn (Health)  
**Cc:** COVID-19 HECC Operations  
**Subject:** RE: Media inquiry: Vaccination statuses

OFFICIAL

Hello,  
 Very sorry I am only getting to the inbox now.  
 CHS will need to provide the information about the ICU people.  
 I can get data to look into with cases but it will take time and I am not sure can be achieved today.

Cheers  
 Louise

Louise Smith | Senior Director Quarantine and Wellbeing – COVID-19  
 Ph: 02 6207 8166 | m: [REDACTED] | e: [louise.smith@act.gov.au](mailto:louise.smith@act.gov.au) | [Quarantine.covid@act.gov.au](mailto:Quarantine.covid@act.gov.au)  
 COVID-19 Response | ACT Health Directorate  
 Level 2, 2-6 Bowes Street Phillip ACT 2606  
[health.act.gov.au](http://health.act.gov.au)



**From:** ACT Health Office of the Chief Health Officer <[ACTHealthOCHO@act.gov.au](mailto:ACTHealthOCHO@act.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 25 January 2022 4:20 PM  
**To:** Hundy, Rebecca (Health) <[Rebecca.Hundy@act.gov.au](mailto:Rebecca.Hundy@act.gov.au)>; Walker, Robyn (Health) <[Robyn.Walker@act.gov.au](mailto:Robyn.Walker@act.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** ACT Health Office of the Chief Health Officer <[ACTHealthOCHO@act.gov.au](mailto:ACTHealthOCHO@act.gov.au)>; COVID-19 HECC Operations <[HECC.Operations@act.gov.au](mailto:HECC.Operations@act.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** FW: Media inquiry: Vaccination statuses

Hi both,

I am soooo sorry. I only just realised Kimberly was away. Hoping this one got picked up, if not please let me know and I will get Alex to manage the journo to get us more time.

Laura McNeill | Director  
 Office of the Chief Health Officer  
 Ph: (02) 5124 9605 | Mob: [REDACTED] | Email: [ACTHealthOCHO@act.gov.au](mailto:ACTHealthOCHO@act.gov.au)

**From:** COVID-19 Media <[COVID-19Media@act.gov.au](mailto:COVID-19Media@act.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 25 January 2022 3:42 PM  
**To:** COVID-19 Media <[COVID-19Media@act.gov.au](mailto:COVID-19Media@act.gov.au)>; ACT Health Office of the Chief Health Officer <[ACTHealthOCHO@act.gov.au](mailto:ACTHealthOCHO@act.gov.au)>; COVID-19 HECC Operations <[HECC.Operations@act.gov.au](mailto:HECC.Operations@act.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** RE: Media inquiry: Vaccination statuses

OFFICIAL

Hi team, are there any updates on this one?

Thanks

Alex

Alex McConachie | Director, Media and Communications  
COVID-19 Communications | COVID-19 Response | ACT Health Directorate  
Level 3, 2-6 Bowes Street Phillip ACT 2606  
T 02 6207 5253 M [REDACTED] E [covid-19media@act.gov.au](mailto:covid-19media@act.gov.au)  
[health.act.gov.au](http://health.act.gov.au)

Media line: 02 6205 9099

**From:** COVID-19 Media  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 25 January 2022 10:54 AM  
**To:** ACT Health Office of the Chief Health Officer <[ACTHealthOCHO@act.gov.au](mailto:ACTHealthOCHO@act.gov.au)>; COVID-19 HECC Operations <[HECC.Operations@act.gov.au](mailto:HECC.Operations@act.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** COVID-19 Media <[COVID-19Media@act.gov.au](mailto:COVID-19Media@act.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** RE: Media inquiry: Vaccination statuses

OFFICIAL

The journalist has also asked if it's possible to get a breakdown of those who had underlying health conditions (comorbidities) vs those who did not – if it's possible to get this included as well?

Let me know if doable.

Thanks

Alex

Alex McConachie | Director, Media and Communications  
COVID-19 Communications | COVID-19 Response | ACT Health Directorate  
Level 3, 2-6 Bowes Street Phillip ACT 2606  
T 02 6207 5253 M [REDACTED] E [covid-19media@act.gov.au](mailto:covid-19media@act.gov.au)  
[health.act.gov.au](http://health.act.gov.au)

Media line: 02 6205 9099

**From:** ACT Health Office of the Chief Health Officer <[ACTHealthOCHO@act.gov.au](mailto:ACTHealthOCHO@act.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 25 January 2022 9:22 AM  
**To:** COVID-19 HECC Operations <[HECC.Operations@act.gov.au](mailto:HECC.Operations@act.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** ACT Health Office of the Chief Health Officer <[ACTHealthOCHO@act.gov.au](mailto:ACTHealthOCHO@act.gov.au)>; COVID-19 Media <[COVID-19Media@act.gov.au](mailto:COVID-19Media@act.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** FW: Media inquiry: Vaccination statuses

For action please team

Laura McNeill | Director  
Office of the Chief Health Officer  
Ph: (02) 5124 9605 | Mob [REDACTED] Email: [ACTHealthOCHO@act.gov.au](mailto:ACTHealthOCHO@act.gov.au)

**From:** COVID-19 Media <COVID-19Media@act.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 25 January 2022 9:02 AM  
**To:** ACT Health Office of the Chief Health Officer <ACTHealthOCHO@act.gov.au>  
**Cc:** COVID-19 Media <COVID-19Media@act.gov.au>; ACT Health EBM COVID-19 Comms <EBM covid19comms@act.gov.au>  
**Subject:** FW: Media inquiry: Vaccination statuses

OFFICIAL

Hi team,

Can we please source the below data through Ops (Epi) and CHS please?

Of the COVID-19 deaths in 2022 in the ACT, how many had been:

- Unvaccinated?
- Had received one dose?
- Had received two doses?
- Had received boosters shots?

Of the COVID-19 ICU admissions in 2022 in the ACT, how many had been:

- Unvaccinated?
- Had received one dose?
- Had received two doses?
- Had received boosters shots?

I know for q1 we sourced the following on Friday (not counting the two deaths reported yesterday)

[REDACTED]

So just need to get the status for the two that died yesterday (plus if there are any being reported today). Would also be good to get third dose status, if possible.

Something by 3.30pm would be good if that's doable please.

Thanks

Alex

**Alex McConachie** | Director, Media and Communications  
**COVID-19 Communications** | COVID-19 Response | ACT Health Directorate  
Level 3, 2-6 Bowes Street Phillip ACT 2606  
T 02 6207 5253 M [REDACTED] E [covid-19media@act.gov.au](mailto:covid-19media@act.gov.au)  
[health.act.gov.au](http://health.act.gov.au)

**Media line:** 02 6205 9099

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, 24 January 2022 5:59 PM

To: COVID-19 Media <COVID-19Media@act.gov.au>

Subject: Media inquiry: Vaccination statuses

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the ACT Government. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi team,

I know ACT Health does not reveal the COVID-19 vaccination status of individuals who have died due to privacy but I was hoping this information could be provided as part of a group, as it has been in the past.

I was hoping it would be possible to get this data for the deaths and ICU admissions which have occurred in 2022.

This information is something readers of *The Canberra Times* have been asking about in recent weeks, especially as other states have provided this information. It helps people to understand the nature of the outbreak and the importance of vaccines.

Please see some questions below. Would be great if we could chat about this tomorrow.

Of the COVID-19 deaths in 2022 in the ACT, how many had been:

- Unvaccinated?
- Had received one dose?
- Had received two doses?
- Had received boosters shots?

Of the COVID-19 ICU admissions in 2022 in the ACT, how many had been:

- Unvaccinated?
- Had received one dose?
- Had received two doses?
- Had received boosters shots?

Thanks,

  
Journalist  
Australian Community Media

M   
W [www.canberratimes.com.au](http://www.canberratimes.com.au)

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**Lowes, Shannon (Health)**

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**From:** Cummings, Shane (Health)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 25 January 2022 5:28 PM  
**To:** Swanston, Heather (Health)  
**Subject:** RE: Media inquiry: Vaccination statuses

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

OFFICIAL

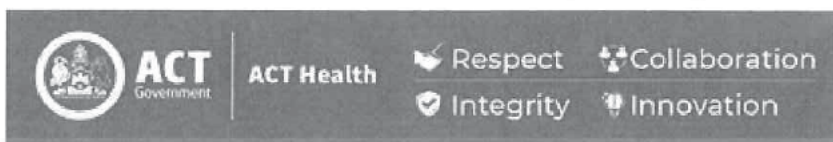
Hi Heather,

I approve this approach. Please send it up.

Thanks,

Shane

Shane Cummings | Senior Director, Data and Reporting and NDMS Implementation  
 COVID-19 Response Division | Operations Branch  
 Phone: [REDACTED] Email: [shane.cummings@act.gov.au](mailto:shane.cummings@act.gov.au)  
 ACT Health Directorate – 4 Bowes Street Phillip ACT 2606 | [health.act.gov.au](http://health.act.gov.au)



**From:** Swanston, Heather (Health) <[Heather.Swanston@act.gov.au](mailto:Heather.Swanston@act.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 25 January 2022 5:21 PM  
**To:** Cummings, Shane (Health) <[Shane.Cummings@act.gov.au](mailto:Shane.Cummings@act.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** RE: Media inquiry: Vaccination statuses

OFFICIAL

Shane – urgent for clearance.  
 HS

Hi Robyn

We can provide data on vaccination status for those who have died and for those who have been hospitalised, however, we are unable to provide any further information on these cases for privacy/confidentiality reasons. Whole genome sequencing is unavailable for a number of these cases so we will not be supplying this information.

I am not comfortable providing any info on such a small group of cases i.e. not for 2022 alone. I know we were asked for data since 13 December, but those numbers are very small once breakdowns are reported. To be safe, we have supplied vax data for all deaths during this outbreak and on hospitalisations for the whole pandemic.

There were 3 deaths prior to the current outbreak, however they occurred before vaccines were developed so are not included here.

**Deaths by vaccination status since August 2021 (i.e. for this outbreak):**

Vaccination status	Number of deaths
Fully Vaccinated/booster	11
Partially Vaccinated	3
Not vaccinated	7
Unknown	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>22</b>

Hospitalisations data are from SEMC report:

#### Total Cases by Vaccination Status with Hospitalisation Status (Non-Mutually Exclusive)

Status (NON-MUTUALLY EXCLUSIVE)	Booster dose N (%)	Fully vaccinated N (%)	Partially vaccinated N (%)	Unvaccinated N (%)	Unvalidated/ Unknown N (%)	TOTAL <sup>a</sup>
Hospitalised	15 (5%)	105 (32%)	35 (11%)	162 (49%)	16 (5%)	333 (100%)

Source: ACT Health Data Repository (SunQuest).

Note: Hospitalisation (due to COVID-19 conditions) includes cases who were admitted for other reasons but stayed in hospital for management of COVID-19 symptoms. This does not include cases who were only hospitalised for the purpose of management of other conditions.

<sup>a</sup>Since the start of the pandemic, March 2020.

Heather

**From:** Walker, Robyn (Health) <[Robyn.Walker@act.gov.au](mailto:Robyn.Walker@act.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 25 January 2022 4:27 PM  
**To:** Swanston, Heather (Health) <[Heather.Swanston@act.gov.au](mailto:Heather.Swanston@act.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** Cummings, Shane (Health) <[Shane.Cummings@act.gov.au](mailto:Shane.Cummings@act.gov.au)>; Hundy, Rebecca (Health) <[Rebecca.Hundy@act.gov.au](mailto:Rebecca.Hundy@act.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** FW: Media inquiry: Vaccination statuses

OFFICIAL

Heather,  
 Not sure if this is something you could help us with?

Robyn

**From:** ACT Health Office of the Chief Health Officer <[ACTHealthOCHO@act.gov.au](mailto:ACTHealthOCHO@act.gov.au)>  
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**To:** Hundy, Rebecca (Health) <[Rebecca.Hundy@act.gov.au](mailto:Rebecca.Hundy@act.gov.au)>; Walker, Robyn (Health) <[Robyn.Walker@act.gov.au](mailto:Robyn.Walker@act.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** ACT Health Office of the Chief Health Officer <[ACTHealthOCHO@act.gov.au](mailto:ACTHealthOCHO@act.gov.au)>; COVID-19 HECC Operations <[HECC.Operations@act.gov.au](mailto:HECC.Operations@act.gov.au)>  
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 Office of the Chief Health Officer

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OFFICIAL

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Alex McConachie | Director, Media and Communications  
 COVID-19 Communications | COVID-19 Response | ACT Health Directorate  
 Level 3, 2-6 Bowes Street Phillip ACT 2606  
 T 02 6207 5253 M [REDACTED] E [covid-19media@act.gov.au](mailto:covid-19media@act.gov.au)  
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**Cc:** COVID-19 Media <[COVID-19Media@act.gov.au](mailto:COVID-19Media@act.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** RE: Media inquiry: Vaccination statuses

OFFICIAL

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[health.act.gov.au](http://health.act.gov.au)

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**To:** COVID-19 HECC Operations <[HECC.Operations@act.gov.au](mailto:HECC.Operations@act.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** ACT Health Office of the Chief Health Officer <[ACTHealthOCHO@act.gov.au](mailto:ACTHealthOCHO@act.gov.au)>; COVID-19 Media <[COVID-19Media@act.gov.au](mailto:COVID-19Media@act.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** FW: Media inquiry: Vaccination statuses

For action please team

Laura McNeill | Director  
Office of the Chief Health Officer

Ph: (02) 5124 9605 | Mob: [REDACTED] | Email: [ACTHealthOCHO@act.gov.au](mailto:ACTHealthOCHO@act.gov.au)

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**Sent:** Tuesday, 25 January 2022 9:02 AM

**To:** ACT Health Office of the Chief Health Officer <[ACTHealthOCHO@act.gov.au](mailto:ACTHealthOCHO@act.gov.au)>

**Cc:** COVID-19 Media <[COVID-19Media@act.gov.au](mailto:COVID-19Media@act.gov.au)>; ACT Health EBM COVID-19 Comms <[EBM covid19comms@act.gov.au](mailto:EBM covid19comms@act.gov.au)>

**Subject:** FW: Media inquiry: Vaccination statuses

OFFICIAL

Hi team,

Can we please source the below data through Ops (Epi) and CHS please?

Of the COVID-19 deaths in 2022 in the ACT, how many had been:

- Unvaccinated?
- Had received one dose?
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Of the COVID-19 ICU admissions in 2022 in the ACT, how many had been:

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I know for q1 we sourced the following on Friday (not counting the two deaths reported yesterday)

[REDACTED]

So just need to get the status for the two that died yesterday (plus if there are any being reported today). Would also be good to get third dose status, if possible.

Something by 3.30pm would be good if that's doable please.

Thanks

Alex

Alex McConachie | Director, Media and Communications  
COVID-19 Communications | COVID-19 Response | ACT Health Directorate  
Level 3, 2-6 Bowes Street Phillip ACT 2606  
T 02 6207 5253 M [REDACTED] E [covid-19media@act.gov.au](mailto:covid-19media@act.gov.au)  
[health.act.gov.au](http://health.act.gov.au)

Media line: 02 6205 9099

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Monday, 24 January 2022 5:59 PM  
To: COVID-19 Media <[COVID-19Media@act.gov.au](mailto:COVID-19Media@act.gov.au)>  
Subject: Media inquiry: Vaccination statuses

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Hi team,

I know ACT Health does not reveal the COVID-19 vaccination status of individuals who have died due to privacy but I was hoping this information could be provided as part of a group, as it has been in the past.

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Thanks,

[REDACTED]  
Journalist  
Australian Community Media

M [REDACTED]  
W [www.canberratimes.com.au](http://www.canberratimes.com.au)

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**Lowes, Shannon (Health)**

---

**From:** Smith, Louise on behalf of COVID-19 HECC Operations  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 25 January 2022 5:49 PM  
**To:** Cases.covid; COVID-19 HECC Data  
**Cc:** Hundy, Rebecca (Health); Cummings, Shane (Health)  
**Subject:** FW: Media inquiry: Vaccination statuses

OFFICIAL

Hello,

I am very sorry about this but are you able to assist with any of the requested information below?

I have indicated for ICU data they need to go to CHS.

I did respond to media at 1700 indicating I had only just seen the email so hopefully they have let the jurno know.

Thank you  
 Louise

**Louise Smith | Senior Director Quarantine and Wellbeing – COVID-19**

Ph: 02 6207 8166 | m: [REDACTED] | e: [louise.smith@act.gov.au](mailto:louise.smith@act.gov.au) | [Quarantine.covid@act.gov.au](mailto:Quarantine.covid@act.gov.au)

**COVID-19 Response | ACT Health Directorate**

Level 2, 2-6 Bowes Street Phillip ACT 2606

[health.act.gov.au](http://health.act.gov.au)



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OFFICIAL

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Let me know if doable.

Thanks

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**COVID-19 Communications | COVID-19 Response | ACT Health Directorate**



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For action please team

Laura McNeill | Director  
 Office of the Chief Health Officer  
 Ph: (02) 5124 9605 | Mob: [REDACTED] Email: [ACTHealthOCHO@act.gov.au](mailto:ACTHealthOCHO@act.gov.au)

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[REDACTED]  
Journalist  
Australian Community Media

M [REDACTED]  
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**Lowes, Shannon (Health)**

---

**From:** Swanston, Heather (Health)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 27 January 2022 10:30 AM  
**To:** Cummings, Shane (Health); Georg, Simone (Health)  
**Subject:** FW: Media inquiry: Vaccination statuses

OFFICIAL

For info

**From:** Swanston, Heather (Health)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 27 January 2022 10:29 AM  
**To:** Walker, Robyn (Health) <Robyn.Walker@act.gov.au>  
**Subject:** RE: Media inquiry: Vaccination statuses

OFFICIAL

Robyn

For the 10 people who died in 2022:

Fully Vaccinated	5
Not vaccinated	2
Partially Vaccinated	2
Unknown	1

Caveat: these numbers are very small so no trends can be identified. In addition, in order to preserve patient confidentiality, we are not reporting underlying medical conditions which are an important part of the picture.

Heather

Dr Heather Swanston | Director | Surveillance and Reporting | COVID-19 Response

Ph: 02 5124 6219 | Email: [Heather.Swanston@act.gov.au](mailto:Heather.Swanston@act.gov.au)

Public Health Emergency Coordination Centre | Health Emergency Control Centre | ACT Health Directorate

Level 3, 2-6 Bowes Street Phillip ACT 2606

[health.act.gov.au](http://health.act.gov.au)



**From:** Swanston, Heather (Health)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 27 January 2022 9:27 AM  
**To:** Walker, Robyn (Health) <Robyn.Walker@act.gov.au>  
**Subject:** RE: Media inquiry: Vaccination statuses

OFFICIAL

Morning Robyn

I only had time before the CHO huddle to sort the booster part of this request (only one so can't report this separately). I'll finish taking a look at the rest of the request after I release the daily epi this morning.

Heather

**From:** Walker, Robyn (Health) <[Robyn.Walker@act.gov.au](mailto:Robyn.Walker@act.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 27 January 2022 8:49 AM  
**To:** Swanston, Heather (Health) <[Heather.Swanston@act.gov.au](mailto:Heather.Swanston@act.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** FW: Media inquiry: Vaccination statuses

OFFICIAL

Heather

Is it possible to do as Alex requests - from 01 Jan?

Robyn

**From:** COVID-19 Media <[COVID-19Media@act.gov.au](mailto:COVID-19Media@act.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 27 January 2022 8:47 AM  
**To:** Walker, Robyn (Health) <[Robyn.Walker@act.gov.au](mailto:Robyn.Walker@act.gov.au)>; COVID-19 Media <[COVID-19Media@act.gov.au](mailto:COVID-19Media@act.gov.au)>; ACT Health Office of the Chief Health Officer <[ACTHealthOCHO@act.gov.au](mailto:ACTHealthOCHO@act.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** COVID-19 HECC Operations <[HECC.Operations@act.gov.au](mailto:HECC.Operations@act.gov.au)>  
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OFFICIAL

Hi Robyn,

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Happy to run without the ICU data – I explained to the journalist on Tuesday morning that would be a bit more tricky.

Thanks

Alex

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**COVID-19 Communications** | COVID-19 Response | ACT Health Directorate  
 Level 3, 2-6 Bowes Street Phillip ACT 2606  
 T 02 6207 5253 M [REDACTED] E [covid-19media@act.gov.au](mailto:covid-19media@act.gov.au)  
[health.act.gov.au](http://health.act.gov.au)

**Media line:** 02 6205 9099

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Cc: COVID-19 HECC Operations <HECC.Operations@act.gov.au>

Subject: FW: Media inquiry: Vaccination statuses

OFFICIAL

Alex,

Sorry about the tardy response. Best I can do:

I know ACT Health does not reveal the COVID-19 vaccination status of individuals who have died due to privacy but I was hoping this information could be provided as part of a group, as it has been in the past.

I was hoping it would be possible to get this data for the deaths and ICU admissions which have occurred in 2022.

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Of the COVID-19 ICU admissions in 2022 in the ACT, how many had been:

- Unvaccinated?
- Had received one dose?
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- Had received boosters shots?
- 

**Deaths by vaccination status since August 2021 (i.e. for this outbreak):**

Vaccination status	Number of deaths
Fully Vaccinated/booster	11
Partially Vaccinated	3
Not vaccinated	7
Unknown	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>22</b>

ICU Vaccination data is not available within this time frame for response.

Robyn

Robyn Walker | Executive Branch Manager Public Health Operations

Ph: 02 51243330 Mob: [REDACTED] Email: [robyn.walker@act.gov.au](mailto:robyn.walker@act.gov.au)

COVID 19 Response ACT Health Directorate

Level 2, 2-6 Bowes Street Phillip ACT 2606

**From:** ACT Health Office of the Chief Health Officer <[ACTHealthOCHO@act.gov.au](mailto:ACTHealthOCHO@act.gov.au)>  
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**To:** Hundy, Rebecca (Health) <[Rebecca.Hundy@act.gov.au](mailto:Rebecca.Hundy@act.gov.au)>; Walker, Robyn (Health) <[Robyn.Walker@act.gov.au](mailto:Robyn.Walker@act.gov.au)>  
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**Subject:** FW: Media inquiry: Vaccination statuses

Hi both,

I am soooo sorry. I only just realised Kimberly was away. Hoping this one got picked up, if not please let me know and I will get Alex to manage the journo to get us more time.

Laura McNeill | Director  
 Office of the Chief Health Officer  
 Ph: (02) 5124 9605 | Mob: [REDACTED] | Email: [ACTHealthOCHO@act.gov.au](mailto:ACTHealthOCHO@act.gov.au)

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**Subject:** RE: Media inquiry: Vaccination statuses

OFFICIAL

Hi team, are there any updates on this one?

Thanks

Alex

Alex McConachie | Director, Media and Communications  
 COVID-19 Communications | COVID-19 Response | ACT Health Directorate  
 Level 3, 2-6 Bowes Street Phillip ACT 2606  
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OFFICIAL

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**Deaths by vaccination status since August 2021 (i.e. for this outbreak):**

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Not vaccinated	7
Unknown	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>22</b>

ICU Vaccination data is not available within this time frame for response.

Robyn

**Robyn Walker | Executive Branch Manager Public Health Operations**

Ph: 02 51243330 Mob: [REDACTED] Email: [robyn.walker@act.gov.au](mailto:robyn.walker@act.gov.au)

**COVID 19 Response ACT Health Directorate**

Level 2, 2-6 Bowes Street Phillip ACT 2606

[health.act.gov.au](http://health.act.gov.au)

**From:** ACT Health Office of the Chief Health Officer <[ACTHealthOCHO@act.gov.au](mailto:ACTHealthOCHO@act.gov.au)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, 25 January 2022 4:20 PM

**To:** Hundy, Rebecca (Health) <[Rebecca.Hundy@act.gov.au](mailto:Rebecca.Hundy@act.gov.au)>; Walker, Robyn (Health) <[Robyn.Walker@act.gov.au](mailto:Robyn.Walker@act.gov.au)>

**Cc:** ACT Health Office of the Chief Health Officer <[ACTHealthOCHO@act.gov.au](mailto:ACTHealthOCHO@act.gov.au)>; COVID-19 HECC Operations <[HECC.Operations@act.gov.au](mailto:HECC.Operations@act.gov.au)>

**Subject:** FW: Media inquiry: Vaccination statuses

Hi both,

I am soooo sorry. I only just realised Kimberly was away. Hoping this one got picked up, if not please let me know and I will get Alex to manage the journo to get us more time.

**Laura McNeill | Director**

**Office of the Chief Health Officer**

Ph: (02) 5124 9605 | Mob: [REDACTED] Email: [ACTHealthOCHO@act.gov.au](mailto:ACTHealthOCHO@act.gov.au)

**From:** COVID-19 Media <[COVID-19Media@act.gov.au](mailto:COVID-19Media@act.gov.au)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, 25 January 2022 3:42 PM

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OFFICIAL

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Alex

**Alex McConachie | Director, Media and Communications**

**COVID-19 Communications | COVID-19 Response | ACT Health Directorate**

Level 3, 2-6 Bowes Street Phillip ACT 2606

T 02 6207 5253 M [REDACTED] E [covid-19media@act.gov.au](mailto:covid-19media@act.gov.au)

[health.act.gov.au](mailto:health.act.gov.au)

Media line: 02 6205 9099

**From:** COVID-19 Media

**Sent:** Tuesday, 25 January 2022 10:54 AM

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**Subject:** RE: Media inquiry: Vaccination statuses

OFFICIAL

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Let me know if doable.

Thanks

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 T 02 6207 5253 M [REDACTED] E [covid-19media@act.gov.au](mailto:covid-19media@act.gov.au)  
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**Subject:** FW: Media inquiry: Vaccination statuses

For action please team

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**Subject:** FW: Media inquiry: Vaccination statuses

OFFICIAL

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[REDACTED]

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Something by 3.30pm would be good if that's doable please.

Thanks

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Alex McConachie | Director, Media and Communications  
COVID-19 Communications | COVID-19 Response | ACT Health Directorate  
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[health.act.gov.au](http://health.act.gov.au)

Media line: 02 6205 9099

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Monday, 24 January 2022 5:59 PM  
To: COVID-19 Media <[COVID-19Media@act.gov.au](mailto:COVID-19Media@act.gov.au)>  
Subject: Media inquiry: Vaccination statuses

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the ACT Government. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

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Thanks,

  
Journalist  
Australian Community Media

M   
W [www.canberratimes.com.au](http://www.canberratimes.com.au)

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**Lowes, Shannon (Health)**

---

**From:** COVID-19 Media  
**Sent:** Thursday, 27 January 2022 10:51 AM  
**To:** Walker, Robyn (Health); COVID-19 Media; ACT Health Office of the Chief Health Officer  
**Cc:** COVID-19 HECC Operations; Van Aalst, Sally  
**Subject:** RE: Media inquiry: Vaccination statuses

OFFICIAL

Hi Robyn,

Re the one person who had a booster, acknowledge your concerns about it being a small number but I think in terms of overall picture and what we're trying to achieve by presenting this data I think it's extremely relevant to include. Hopefully a bit of public reporting on the fact that 9 out of the 10 deaths had not received a booster might help encourage uptake in booster bookings given these have been flatlining a bit.

Could we perhaps discuss with Kerry about including it in this data set?

Thanks

Alex

**Alex McConachie** | Director, Media and Communications  
**COVID-19 Communications** | COVID-19 Response | ACT Health Directorate  
 Level 3, 2-6 Bowes Street Phillip ACT 2606  
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[health.act.gov.au](http://health.act.gov.au)

**Media line:** 02 6205 9099

**From:** Walker, Robyn (Health) <[Robyn.Walker@act.gov.au](mailto:Robyn.Walker@act.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 27 January 2022 10:34 AM  
**To:** COVID-19 Media <[COVID-19Media@act.gov.au](mailto:COVID-19Media@act.gov.au)>; ACT Health Office of the Chief Health Officer <[ACTHealthOCHO@act.gov.au](mailto:ACTHealthOCHO@act.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** COVID-19 HECC Operations <[HECC.Operations@act.gov.au](mailto:HECC.Operations@act.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** RE: Media inquiry: Vaccination statuses

OFFICIAL

Alex,

For the 10 people who died in 2022:

Fully Vaccinated	5
Not vaccinated	2
Partially Vaccinated	2
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Caveat: these numbers are very small so no trends can be identified. In addition, in order to preserve patient confidentiality, we are not reporting underlying medical conditions which are an important part of the picture.

Only one has had a booster shot and it would be preferable not to identify.

Robyn

Robyn Walker | Executive Branch Manager Public Health Operations

Ph: 02 51243330 Mob: [REDACTED] Email: [robyn.walker@act.gov.au](mailto:robyn.walker@act.gov.au)

COVID 19 Response ACT Health Directorate

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**Sent:** Tuesday, 25 January 2022 6:25 PM

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**COVID-19 Communications** | COVID-19 Response | ACT Health Directorate

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**Media line:** 02 6205 9099

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Laura McNeill | Director  
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[REDACTED]  
Journalist  
Australian Community Media

M [REDACTED]  
W [www.canberratimes.com.au](http://www.canberratimes.com.au)

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**Lowes, Shannon (Health)**

---

**From:** Swanston, Heather (Health)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 27 January 2022 11:20 AM  
**To:** Walker, Robyn (Health)  
**Subject:** RE: Media inquiry: Vaccination statuses

OFFICIAL

Robyn

Well spotted. One of the 'fully vaccinated' folk. I have updated the table below to reflect this.  
 Heather

**From:** Walker, Robyn (Health) <Robyn.Walker@act.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 27 January 2022 11:16 AM  
**To:** Swanston, Heather (Health) <Heather.Swanston@act.gov.au>  
**Subject:** RE: Media inquiry: Vaccination statuses

OFFICIAL

Heather,  
 Which one has had the booster?  
 Robyn

**From:** Swanston, Heather (Health) <Heather.Swanston@act.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 27 January 2022 10:29 AM  
**To:** Walker, Robyn (Health) <Robyn.Walker@act.gov.au>  
**Subject:** RE: Media inquiry: Vaccination statuses

OFFICIAL

Robyn

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Heather

Dr Heather Swanston | Director | Surveillance and Reporting | COVID-19 Response  
 Ph: 02 5124 6219 | Email: [Heather.Swanston@act.gov.au](mailto:Heather.Swanston@act.gov.au)

Public Health Emergency Coordination Centre | Health Emergency Control Centre | ACT Health Directorate  
 Level 3, 2-6 Bowes Street Phillip ACT 2606  
[health.act.gov.au](http://health.act.gov.au)





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**To:** Walker, Robyn (Health) <[Robyn.Walker@act.gov.au](mailto:Robyn.Walker@act.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** RE: Media inquiry: Vaccination statuses

OFFICIAL

Morning Robyn

I only had time before the CHO huddle to sort the booster part of this request (only one so can't report this separately). I'll finish taking a look at the rest of the request after I release the daily epi this morning.

Heather

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**Subject:** FW: Media inquiry: Vaccination statuses

OFFICIAL

Heather  
 Is it possible to do as Alex requests - from 01 Jan?  
 Robyn

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Alex

Alex McConachie | Director, Media and Communications  
 COVID-19 Communications | COVID-19 Response | ACT Health Directorate  
 Level 3, 2-6 Bowes Street Phillip ACT 2606  
 T 02 6207 5253 M [REDACTED] E [covid-19media@act.gov.au](mailto:covid-19media@act.gov.au)  
[health.act.gov.au](http://health.act.gov.au)

Media line: 02 6205 9099

**From:** Walker, Robyn (Health) <[Robyn.Walker@act.gov.au](mailto:Robyn.Walker@act.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 25 January 2022 6:25 PM  
**To:** COVID-19 Media <[COVID-19Media@act.gov.au](mailto:COVID-19Media@act.gov.au)>; ACT Health Office of the Chief Health Officer <[ACTHealthOCHO@act.gov.au](mailto:ACTHealthOCHO@act.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** COVID-19 HECC Operations <[HECC.Operations@act.gov.au](mailto:HECC.Operations@act.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** FW: Media inquiry: Vaccination statuses

OFFICIAL

Alex,  
 Sorry about the tardy response. Best I can do:

I know ACT Health does not reveal the COVID-19 vaccination status of individuals who have died due to privacy but I was hoping this information could be provided as part of a group, as it has been in the past.

I was hoping it would be possible to get this data for the deaths and ICU admissions which have occurred in 2022.

This information is something readers of *The Canberra Times* have been asking about in recent weeks, especially as other states have provided this information. It helps people to understand the nature of the outbreak and the importance of vaccines.

Please see some questions below. Would be great if we could chat about this tomorrow.

Of the COVID-19 deaths in 2022 in the ACT, how many had been:

- Unvaccinated?
- Had received one dose?
- Had received two doses?
- Had received boosters shots?

Of the COVID-19 ICU admissions in 2022 in the ACT, how many had been:

- Unvaccinated?
- Had received one dose?
- Had received two doses?
- Had received boosters shots?
- 

**Deaths by vaccination status since August 2021 (i.e. for this outbreak):**

Vaccination status	Number of deaths
Fully Vaccinated/booster	11

Partially Vaccinated	3
Not vaccinated	7
Unknown	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>22</b>

ICU Vaccination data is not available within this time frame for response.

Robyn

**Robyn Walker | Executive Branch Manager Public Health Operations**  
 Ph: 02 51243330 Mob: [REDACTED] Email: [robyn.walker@act.gov.au](mailto:robyn.walker@act.gov.au)  
**COVID 19 Response ACT Health Directorate**  
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Hi both,

I am soooo sorry. I only just realised Kimberly was away. Hoping this one got picked up, if not please let me know and I will get Alex to manage the journo to get us more time.

**Laura McNeill | Director**  
**Office of the Chief Health Officer**  
 Ph: (02) 5124 9605 | Mob: [REDACTED] | Email: [ACTHealthOCHO@act.gov.au](mailto:ACTHealthOCHO@act.gov.au)

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Hi team, are there any updates on this one?

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The journalist has also asked if it's possible to get a breakdown of those who had underlying health conditions (comorbidities) vs those who did not – if it's possible to get this included as well?

Let me know if doable.

Thanks

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For action please team

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OFFICIAL

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I know for q1 we sourced the following on Friday (not counting the two deaths reported yesterday)

[REDACTED]

So just need to get the status for the two that died yesterday (plus if there are any being reported today). Would also be good to get third dose status, if possible.

Something by 3.30pm would be good if that's doable please.

Thanks

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[health.act.gov.au](http://health.act.gov.au)

Media line: 02 6205 9099

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Monday, 24 January 2022 5:59 PM  
To: COVID-19 Media <[COVID-19Media@act.gov.au](mailto:COVID-19Media@act.gov.au)>  
Subject: Media inquiry: Vaccination statuses

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the ACT Government. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

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Thanks,

  
Journalist  
Australian Community Media

M   
W [www.canberratimes.com.au](http://www.canberratimes.com.au)

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**Lowes, Shannon (Health)**

---

**From:** Walker, Robyn (Health)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 27 January 2022 12:15 PM  
**To:** McConachie, Alex; COVID-19 Media  
**Cc:** ACT Health Office of the Chief Health Officer; COVID-19 HECC Operations; Van Aalst, Sally  
**Subject:** RE: Media inquiry: Vaccination statuses

OFFICIAL

Alex,  
 That is just not something I can easily pull out.  
 Robyn

**From:** McConachie, Alex <Alex.McConachie@act.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 27 January 2022 12:00 PM  
**To:** Walker, Robyn (Health) <Robyn.Walker@act.gov.au>; COVID-19 Media <COVID-19Media@act.gov.au>  
**Cc:** ACT Health Office of the Chief Health Officer <ACTHealthOCHO@act.gov.au>; COVID-19 HECC Operations <HECC.Operations@act.gov.au>; Van Aalst, Sally <Sally.VanAalst@act.gov.au>  
**Subject:** RE: Media inquiry: Vaccination statuses

OFFICIAL

Given the effect on comorbidities, is there any way we can report on that data when responding to this?

Maybe just a breakdown as simple as x had comorbidities and y had no comorbidities – surely that will be deidentified enough?

Thanks

Alex

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**Media line:** 02 6205 9099

**From:** Walker, Robyn (Health) <Robyn.Walker@act.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 27 January 2022 11:27 AM  
**To:** COVID-19 Media <COVID-19Media@act.gov.au>; McConachie, Alex <Alex.McConachie@act.gov.au>  
**Cc:** ACT Health Office of the Chief Health Officer <ACTHealthOCHO@act.gov.au>; COVID-19 HECC Operations <HECC.Operations@act.gov.au>; Van Aalst, Sally <Sally.VanAalst@act.gov.au>  
**Subject:** FW: Media inquiry: Vaccination statuses

OFFICIAL

Alex,  
 Have amended the table below. I do not believe you can make any inferences about lack of boosters and subsequent death. Co- morbidities are much more likely to have an effect.



Robyn

Robyn Walker | Executive Branch Manager Public Health Operations

Ph: 02 51243330 Mob: [REDACTED] Email: [robyn.walker@act.gov.au](mailto:robyn.walker@act.gov.au)

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**From:** COVID-19 Media <[COVID-19Media@act.gov.au](mailto:COVID-19Media@act.gov.au)>

**Sent:** Thursday, 27 January 2022 10:51 AM

**To:** Walker, Robyn (Health) <[Robyn.Walker@act.gov.au](mailto:Robyn.Walker@act.gov.au)>; COVID-19 Media <[COVID-19Media@act.gov.au](mailto:COVID-19Media@act.gov.au)>; ACT Health Office of the Chief Health Officer <[ACTHealthOCHO@act.gov.au](mailto:ACTHealthOCHO@act.gov.au)>

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**Subject:** RE: Media inquiry: Vaccination statuses

OFFICIAL

Hi Robyn,

Re the one person who had a booster, acknowledge your concerns about it being a small number but I think in terms of overall picture and what we're trying to achieve by presenting this data I think it's extremely relevant to include. Hopefully a bit of public reporting on the fact that 9 out of the 10 deaths had not received a booster might help encourage uptake in booster bookings given these have been flatlining a bit.

Could we perhaps discuss with Kerryn about including it in this data set?

Thanks

Alex

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**Cc:** COVID-19 HECC Operations <[HECC.Operations@act.gov.au](mailto:HECC.Operations@act.gov.au)>

**Subject:** RE: Media inquiry: Vaccination statuses

OFFICIAL

Alex,

For the 10 people who died in 2022:

Fully Vaccinated*	5
Not vaccinated	2

Partially Vaccinated	2
Unknown	1

\*1 of the 5 had a booster

Caveat: these numbers are very small so no trends can be identified. In addition, in order to preserve patient confidentiality, we are not reporting underlying medical conditions which are an important part of the picture.

Only one has had a booster shot and it would be preferable not to identify.

Robyn

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**Sent:** Thursday, 27 January 2022 8:47 AM

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**Cc:** COVID-19 HECC Operations <[HECC.Operations@act.gov.au](mailto:HECC.Operations@act.gov.au)>

**Subject:** RE: Media inquiry: Vaccination statuses

OFFICIAL

Hi Robyn,

Would it be possible to amend the data below to only include deaths since 1 January (should be 10 in total by my count) and also to specifically pull out whether or not they had received a third dose of vaccine?

Happy to run without the ICU data – I explained to the journalist on Tuesday morning that would be a bit more tricky.

Thanks

Alex

Alex McConachie | Director, Media and Communications

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**Deaths by vaccination status since August 2021 (i.e. for this outbreak):**

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ICU Vaccination data is not available within this time frame for response.

Robyn

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[REDACTED]  
Journalist  
Australian Community Media

M [REDACTED]  
W [www.canberratimes.com.au](http://www.canberratimes.com.au)

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**Lowes, Shannon (Health)**

---

**From:** COVID-19 Media  
**Sent:** Thursday, 27 January 2022 2:55 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Media inquiry: Vaccination statuses

OFFICIAL

Yep still working on it. I'll give you a call shortly to discuss.

Thanks

Alex

Alex McConachie | Director, Media and Communications  
COVID-19 Communications | COVID-19 Response | ACT Health Directorate  
Level 3, 2-6 Bowes Street Phillip ACT 2606  
T 02 6207 5253 M [REDACTED] E [covid-19media@act.gov.au](mailto:covid-19media@act.gov.au)  
[health.act.gov.au](http://health.act.gov.au)

Media line: 02 6205 9099

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 27 January 2022 2:53 PM  
**To:** COVID-19 Media <[COVID-19Media@act.gov.au](mailto:COVID-19Media@act.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** Re: Media inquiry: Vaccination statuses

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Hey Alex,

Could I please get an update on how this inquiry is coming along?

Thanks,

[REDACTED]  
Journalist  
Australian Community Media

M [REDACTED]  
W [www.canberratimes.com.au](http://www.canberratimes.com.au)

On Tue, Jan 25, 2022 at 10:58 AM COVID-19 Media <[COVID-19Media@act.gov.au](mailto:COVID-19Media@act.gov.au)> wrote:

OFFICIAL

I've asked the team if it's possible to include that info too. Let me see what comes back and I'll let you know.

Thanks

Alex

Alex McConachie | Director, Media and Communications

COVID-19 Communications | COVID-19 Response | ACT Health Directorate

Level 3, 2-6 Bowes Street Phillip ACT 2606

T 02 6207 5253 M [REDACTED] E [covid-19media@act.gov.au](mailto:covid-19media@act.gov.au)

[health.act.gov.au](http://health.act.gov.au)

Media line: 02 6205 9099

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 25 January 2022 10:52 AM  
**To:** COVID-19 Media <[COVID-19Media@act.gov.au](mailto:COVID-19Media@act.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** Re: Media inquiry: Vaccination statuses

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the ACT Government. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Alex,

Thank you for looking into this, much appreciated!

No dramas if CHS can't get the ICU data today but it would be good to get the data relating to vaccination statuses of people who have died with COVID-19 today.

Would it be at all possible to include underlying health conditions as part of the data?

Thanks again,

[REDACTED]

Journalist  
Australian Community Media

M [REDACTED]  
W [www.canberratimes.com.au](http://www.canberratimes.com.au)

On Tue, Jan 25, 2022 at 9:43 AM COVID-19 Media <[COVID-19Media@act.gov.au](mailto:COVID-19Media@act.gov.au)> wrote:

OFFICIAL

Hi [REDACTED]

That should be all good and doable today (at least the deaths data, will have to double check with CHS on ICU stuff). Always happy to provide this sort of deidentified data, sometime it will just take a little while to pull together depending on the complexity of the request.

I agree that it should provide a good picture about the importance of vaccines!

Thanks

Alex

Alex McConachie | Director, Media and Communications

COVID-19 Communications | COVID-19 Response | ACT Health Directorate

Level 3, 2-6 Bowes Street Phillip ACT 2606

T 02 6207 5253 M [REDACTED] E [covid-19media@act.gov.au](mailto:covid-19media@act.gov.au)

[health.act.gov.au](http://health.act.gov.au)

Media line: 02 6205 9099

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, 24 January 2022 5:59 PM  
**To:** COVID-19 Media <[COVID-19Media@act.gov.au](mailto:COVID-19Media@act.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** Media inquiry: Vaccination statuses

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the ACT Government. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi team,

I know ACT Health does not reveal the COVID-19 vaccination status of individuals who have died due to privacy but I was hoping this information could be provided as part of a group, as it has been in the past.

I was hoping it would be possible to get this data for the deaths and ICU admissions which have occurred in 2022.

This information is something readers of *The Canberra Times* have been asking about in recent weeks, especially as other states have provided this information. It helps people to understand the nature of the outbreak and the importance of vaccines.

Please see some questions below. Would be great if we could chat about this tomorrow.

Of the COVID-19 deaths in 2022 in the ACT, how many had been:

- Unvaccinated?
- Had received one dose?
- Had received two doses?
- Had received boosters shots?



Of the COVID-19 ICU admissions in 2022 in the ACT, how many had been:

- Unvaccinated?
- Had received one dose?
- Had received two doses?
- Had received boosters shots?

Thanks,

  
Journalist  
Australian Community Media

M   
W [www.canberratimes.com.au](http://www.canberratimes.com.au)

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**Lowes, Shannon (Health)**

**From:** Walker, Robyn (Health)  
**Sent:** Friday, 28 January 2022 3:52 PM  
**To:** Hundy, Rebecca (Health); COVID-19 Media; ACT Health Office of the Chief Health Officer  
**Cc:** COVID-19 HECC Operations  
**Subject:** RE: Media inquiry: Vaccination statuses

## OFFICIAL

Laura,  
 Happy with this updated response.

- Given the small numbers of deaths in the ACT, no trends can be identified from these figures.
- Data is not available on the vaccination status for ICU patients throughout this period.
- ACT Health does not routinely collect comorbidity data for COVID-19 positive cases for reporting purposes.
- It is important to note that there are often several complexities associated with the cause of death for an individual, including possible underlying health conditions. Vaccination status is only one part of the picture.
- The key message from experts remains that vaccination significantly reduces the risk of serious illness for the majority of people, and we continue to encourage anyone who is eligible to get vaccinated.
- For the 11 people who died in 2022:

Fully Vaccinated (two or more doses)	6
Not vaccinated	2
Partially Vaccinated	2
Unknown	1

Robyn

**Robyn Walker | Executive Branch Manager Public Health Operations**  
 Ph: 02 51243330 Mob: [REDACTED] Email: [robyn.walker@act.gov.au](mailto:robyn.walker@act.gov.au)  
**COVID 19 Response ACT Health Directorate**  
 Level 2, 2-6 Bowes Street Phillip ACT 2606  
[health.act.gov.au](http://health.act.gov.au)

**From:** Hundy, Rebecca (Health) <[Rebecca.Hundy@act.gov.au](mailto:Rebecca.Hundy@act.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Friday, 28 January 2022 2:51 PM  
**To:** COVID-19 Media <[COVID-19Media@act.gov.au](mailto:COVID-19Media@act.gov.au)>; ACT Health Office of the Chief Health Officer <[ACTHealthOCHO@act.gov.au](mailto:ACTHealthOCHO@act.gov.au)>; Walker, Robyn (Health) <[Robyn.Walker@act.gov.au](mailto:Robyn.Walker@act.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** COVID-19 HECC Operations <[HECC.Operations@act.gov.au](mailto:HECC.Operations@act.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** RE: Media inquiry: Vaccination statuses

## OFFICIAL

Thanks all, I have made small change to the text below and updated the table/numbers.

@Walker, Robyn (Health) for your clearance please.

Thanks

Rebecca.

**From:** COVID-19 Media <[COVID-19Media@act.gov.au](mailto:COVID-19Media@act.gov.au)>

**Sent:** Friday, 28 January 2022 2:42 PM

**To:** ACT Health Office of the Chief Health Officer <[ACTHealthOCHO@act.gov.au](mailto:ACTHealthOCHO@act.gov.au)>; Walker, Robyn (Health) <[Robyn.Walker@act.gov.au](mailto:Robyn.Walker@act.gov.au)>; Hundy, Rebecca (Health) <[Rebecca.Hundy@act.gov.au](mailto:Rebecca.Hundy@act.gov.au)>

**Cc:** COVID-19 HECC Operations <[HECC.Operations@act.gov.au](mailto:HECC.Operations@act.gov.au)>; COVID-19 Media <[COVID-19Media@act.gov.au](mailto:COVID-19Media@act.gov.au)>

**Subject:** RE: Media inquiry: Vaccination statuses

OFFICIAL

Can we add the death we reported today to this? So would be 6 fully vaccinated with 11 total deaths.

Thanks

Alex

Alex McConachie | Director, Media and Communications

COVID-19 Communications | COVID-19 Response | ACT Health Directorate

Level 3, 2-6 Bowes Street Phillip ACT 2606

T 02 6207 5253 M [REDACTED] E [covid-19media@act.gov.au](mailto:covid-19media@act.gov.au)

[health.act.gov.au](http://health.act.gov.au)

Media line: 02 6205 9099

**From:** ACT Health Office of the Chief Health Officer <[ACTHealthOCHO@act.gov.au](mailto:ACTHealthOCHO@act.gov.au)>

**Sent:** Friday, 28 January 2022 2:38 PM

**To:** Walker, Robyn (Health) <[Robyn.Walker@act.gov.au](mailto:Robyn.Walker@act.gov.au)>; Hundy, Rebecca (Health) <[Rebecca.Hundy@act.gov.au](mailto:Rebecca.Hundy@act.gov.au)>

**Cc:** ACT Health Office of the Chief Health Officer <[ACTHealthOCHO@act.gov.au](mailto:ACTHealthOCHO@act.gov.au)>; COVID-19 HECC Operations <[HECC.Operations@act.gov.au](mailto:HECC.Operations@act.gov.au)>; COVID-19 Media <[COVID-19Media@act.gov.au](mailto:COVID-19Media@act.gov.au)>

**Subject:** RE: Media inquiry: Vaccination statuses

Hi both,

Following discussions yesterday, see below proposed response. I have tried to keep it simple. I also added a line to the data table (noting the advice y'day that 1/5 had had booster, but we didn't want to separate).

- Given the small numbers of deaths in the ACT, no trends can be identified from these figures.
- Data is not available on the vaccination status for ICU patients throughout this period.
- ACT Health does not routinely collect comorbidity data for COVID-19 positive cases for reporting purposes.
- It is important to note that there are often several complexities associated with the cause of death for an individual, including possible underlying health conditions. Vaccination status is only one part of the picture.
- The key message from experts remains that vaccination significantly reduces the risk of serious illness for the majority of people, and we continue to encourage anyone who is eligible to get vaccinated.
- For the 11 people who died in 2022:

Fully Vaccinated (two or more doses)	6
Not vaccinated	2
Partially Vaccinated	2
Unknown	1

Cheers,

Laura McNeill | Director

Office of the Chief Health Officer

Ph: (02) 5124 9605 | Mob: [REDACTED] Email: [ACTHealthOCHO@act.gov.au](mailto:ACTHealthOCHO@act.gov.au)



**From:** COVID-19 Media  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 25 January 2022 10:54 AM  
**To:** ACT Health Office of the Chief Health Officer <[ACTHealthOCHO@act.gov.au](mailto:ACTHealthOCHO@act.gov.au)>; COVID-19 HECC Operations <[HECC.Operations@act.gov.au](mailto:HECC.Operations@act.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** COVID-19 Media <[COVID-19Media@act.gov.au](mailto:COVID-19Media@act.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** RE: Media inquiry: Vaccination statuses

OFFICIAL

The journalist has also asked if it's possible to get a breakdown of those who had underlying health conditions (comorbidities) vs those who did not – if it's possible to get this included as well?

Let me know if doable.

Thanks

Alex

Alex McConachie | Director, Media and Communications  
 COVID-19 Communications | COVID-19 Response | ACT Health Directorate  
 Level 3, 2-6 Bowes Street Phillip ACT 2606  
 T 02 6207 5253 M [REDACTED] E [covid-19media@act.gov.au](mailto:covid-19media@act.gov.au)  
[health.act.gov.au](http://health.act.gov.au)

Media line: 02 6205 9099

**From:** ACT Health Office of the Chief Health Officer <[ACTHealthOCHO@act.gov.au](mailto:ACTHealthOCHO@act.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 25 January 2022 9:22 AM  
**To:** COVID-19 HECC Operations <[HECC.Operations@act.gov.au](mailto:HECC.Operations@act.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** ACT Health Office of the Chief Health Officer <[ACTHealthOCHO@act.gov.au](mailto:ACTHealthOCHO@act.gov.au)>; COVID-19 Media <[COVID-19Media@act.gov.au](mailto:COVID-19Media@act.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** FW: Media inquiry: Vaccination statuses

For action please team

Laura McNeill | Director  
 Office of the Chief Health Officer  
 Ph: (02) 5124 9605 | Mob [REDACTED] Email: [ACTHealthOCHO@act.gov.au](mailto:ACTHealthOCHO@act.gov.au)

**From:** COVID-19 Media <[COVID-19Media@act.gov.au](mailto:COVID-19Media@act.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 25 January 2022 9:02 AM  
**To:** ACT Health Office of the Chief Health Officer <[ACTHealthOCHO@act.gov.au](mailto:ACTHealthOCHO@act.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** COVID-19 Media <[COVID-19Media@act.gov.au](mailto:COVID-19Media@act.gov.au)>; ACT Health EBM COVID-19 Comms <[EBM covid19comms@act.gov.au](mailto:EBM covid19comms@act.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** FW: Media inquiry: Vaccination statuses

OFFICIAL

Hi team,

Can we please source the below data through Ops (Epi) and CHS please?

Of the COVID-19 deaths in 2022 in the ACT, how many had been:



- Unvaccinated?
- Had received one dose?
- Had received two doses?
- Had received boosters shots?

Of the COVID-19 ICU admissions in 2022 in the ACT, how many had been:

- Unvaccinated?
- Had received one dose?
- Had received two doses?
- Had received boosters shots?

I know for q1 we sourced the following on Friday (not counting the two deaths reported yesterday)

So just need to get the status for the two that died yesterday (plus if there are any being reported today). Would also be good to get third dose status, if possible.

Something by 3.30pm would be good if that's doable please.

Thanks

Alex

Alex McConachie | Director, Media and Communications  
 COVID-19 Communications | COVID-19 Response | ACT Health Directorate  
 Level 3, 2-6 Bowes Street Phillip ACT 2606  
 T 02 6207 5253 M [REDACTED] E [covid-19media@act.gov.au](mailto:covid-19media@act.gov.au)  
[health.act.gov.au](http://health.act.gov.au)

Media line: 02 6205 9099

From: [REDACTED]  
 Sent: Monday, 24 January 2022 5:59 PM  
 To: COVID-19 Media <[COVID-19Media@act.gov.au](mailto:COVID-19Media@act.gov.au)>  
 Subject: Media inquiry: Vaccination statuses

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the ACT Government. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi team,

I know ACT Health does not reveal the COVID-19 vaccination status of individuals who have died due to privacy but I was hoping this information could be provided as part of a group, as it has been in the past.

I was hoping it would be possible to get this data for the deaths and ICU admissions which have occurred in 2022.

This information is something readers of *The Canberra Times* have been asking about in recent weeks, especially as other states have provided this information. It helps people to understand the nature of the outbreak and the importance of vaccines.

Please see some questions below. Would be great if we could chat about this tomorrow.

Of the COVID-19 deaths in 2022 in the ACT, how many had been:

- Unvaccinated?
- Had received one dose?
- Had received two doses?
- Had received boosters shots?

Of the COVID-19 ICU admissions in 2022 in the ACT, how many had been:

- Unvaccinated?
- Had received one dose?
- Had received two doses?
- Had received boosters shots?

Thanks,

  
Journalist  
Australian Community Media

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W [www.canberratimes.com.au](http://www.canberratimes.com.au)

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**Lowes, Shannon (Health)**

---

**From:** Van Aalst, Sally  
**Sent:** Friday, 28 January 2022 5:05 PM  
**To:** McConachie, Alex  
**Subject:** FW: Total hospitalisations/ICU for outbreak

OFFICIAL

As per my message – they are fine with whatever caveats we need to add in.

**From:** Bergin, Catherine <Catherine.Bergin@act.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Friday, 28 January 2022 5:03 PM  
**To:** Van Aalst, Sally <Sally.VanAalst@act.gov.au>  
**Cc:** Rainbow, Jed <Jed.Rainbow@act.gov.au>  
**Subject:** FW: Total hospitalisations/ICU for outbreak

Hi Sally,

See below as discussed.

Thanks,  
 Cath

**From:** Tzavalas, Olivia (Health) <Olivia.Tzavalas@act.gov.au> **On Behalf Of** Peffer, Dave (Health)  
**Sent:** Friday, 28 January 2022 4:50 PM  
**To:** Bergin, Catherine <Catherine.Bergin@act.gov.au>  
**Subject:** FW: Total hospitalisations/ICU for outbreak

OFFICIAL

**From:** McGufficke, Kerri (Health) <Kerri.McGufficke@act.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Friday, 28 January 2022 11:26 AM  
**To:** CHECC <CHECC@act.gov.au>; COVID-19 Comms <COVID-19Comms@act.gov.au>; COVID-19 HECC LO CHS <HECC.LOCHS@act.gov.au>; GovernmentBusinessHealth <GovernmentBusinessHealth@act.gov.au>  
**Cc:** Rogers, Tamerra <Tamerra.Rogers@act.gov.au>; Pulli, Tracey (Health) <Tracey.Pulli@act.gov.au>; Gleeson, Jody <Jody.Gleeson@act.gov.au>; Peffer, Dave (Health) <Dave.Peffer@act.gov.au>; Walton, Nasa (Health) <Nasa.Walton@act.gov.au>; ACT Health EBM COVID-19 Comms <EBM covid19comms@act.gov.au>  
**Subject:** RE: Total hospitalisations/ICU for outbreak

OFFICIAL

**As at 20:00 27 January 2022**

1. Total number of inpatients with COVID-19 admitted in public hospitals since the outbreak began across both public hospitals – 393
2. Total number of patients with COVID-19 who have been in ICU in public hospitals since the outbreak began – 63
3. Total number of patients with COVID-19 ventilated since the outbreak began – 31

## Vaccination status of inpatients

All admissions hospitalised		
Vaccinated 1st dose	29	7.4%
Fully vaccinated	116	29.5%
Unvaccinated	139	35.4%
Unknown	109	27.7%
Admissions	393	
ICU Admissions hospitalised		
Vaccinated 1st dose	6	9.5%
Fully vaccinated	8	12.7%
Unvaccinated	37	58.7%
Unknown	12	19.0%
Admissions	63	
ICU Ventilated hospitalised		
Vaccinated 1st dose	4	12.9%
Fully vaccinated	2	6.5%
Unvaccinated	21	67.7%
Unknown	4	12.9%
Admissions	31	

**Kerri McGufficke** | Senior Director CHS DHR Readiness Lead  
 Phone: (02) 5124 4425 | Ext: 44425 | Email: [kerri.mcgufficke@act.gov.au](mailto:kerri.mcgufficke@act.gov.au)  
 B28 Level 2 | Canberra Hospital | Yamba Drive Garran ACT 2605  
**Chief Information Office | Canberra Health Services | ACT Government**  
 PO Box 11, Woden ACT 2606 | [health.act.gov.au](http://health.act.gov.au)  
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**Lowes, Shannon (Health)**

---

**From:** Van Aalst, Sally  
**Sent:** Friday, 28 January 2022 5:06 PM  
**To:** Bergin, Catherine  
**Cc:** Rainbow, Jed; McConachie, Alex  
**Subject:** RE: Total hospitalisations/ICU for outbreak

OFFICIAL

Thank you – Alex is look at this for us

Sal

**From:** Bergin, Catherine <Catherine.Bergin@act.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Friday, 28 January 2022 5:03 PM  
**To:** Van Aalst, Sally <Sally.VanAalst@act.gov.au>  
**Cc:** Rainbow, Jed <Jed.Rainbow@act.gov.au>  
**Subject:** FW: Total hospitalisations/ICU for outbreak

Hi Sally,

See below as discussed.

Thanks,  
 Cath

**From:** Tzavalas, Olivia (Health) <Olivia.Tzavalas@act.gov.au> **On Behalf Of** Peffer, Dave (Health)  
**Sent:** Friday, 28 January 2022 4:50 PM  
**To:** Bergin, Catherine <Catherine.Bergin@act.gov.au>  
**Subject:** FW: Total hospitalisations/ICU for outbreak

OFFICIAL

**From:** McGufficke, Kerri (Health) <Kerri.McGufficke@act.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Friday, 28 January 2022 11:26 AM  
**To:** CHECC <CHECC@act.gov.au>; COVID-19 Comms <COVID-19Comms@act.gov.au>; COVID-19 HECC LO CHS <HECC.LOCHS@act.gov.au>; GovernmentBusinessHealth <GovernmentBusinessHealth@act.gov.au>  
**Cc:** Rogers, Tamerra <Tamerra.Rogers@act.gov.au>; Pulli, Tracey (Health) <Tracey.Pulli@act.gov.au>; Gleeson, Jody <Jody.Gleeson@act.gov.au>; Peffer, Dave (Health) <Dave.Peffer@act.gov.au>; Walton, Nasa (Health) <Nasa.Walton@act.gov.au>; ACT Health EBM COVID-19 Comms <EBMccovid19comms@act.gov.au>  
**Subject:** RE: Total hospitalisations/ICU for outbreak

OFFICIAL

**As at 20:00 27 January 2022**

1. Total number of inpatients with COVID-19 admitted in public hospitals since the outbreak began across both public hospitals – 393



2. Total number of patients with COVID-19 who have been in ICU in public hospitals since the outbreak began – 63
3. Total number of patients with COVID-19 ventilated since the outbreak began – 31

#### Vaccination status of inpatients

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Admissions	393	
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Vaccinated 1st dose	6	9.5%
Fully vaccinated	8	12.7%
Unvaccinated	37	58.7%
Unknown	12	19.0%
Admissions	63	
ICU Ventilated hospitalised		
Vaccinated 1st dose	4	12.9%
Fully vaccinated	2	6.5%
Unvaccinated	21	67.7%
Unknown	4	12.9%
Admissions	31	

**Kerri McGufficke** | Senior Director CHS DHR Readiness Lead  
 Phone: (02) 5124 4425 | Ext: 44425 | Email: [kerri.mcgufficke@act.gov.au](mailto:kerri.mcgufficke@act.gov.au)  
 B28 Level 2 | Canberra Hospital | Yamba Drive Garran ACT 2605  
**Chief Information Office | Canberra Health Services | ACT Government**  
 PO Box 11, Woden ACT 2606 | [health.act.gov.au](http://health.act.gov.au)  
**RELIABLE | PROGRESSIVE | RESPECTFUL | KIND**

**Lowes, Shannon (Health)**

---

**From:** McConachie, Alex  
**Sent:** Friday, 28 January 2022 5:19 PM  
**To:** Warner, KarenL (Health)  
**Cc:** COVID-19 Media; Canberra Health Services Media; Van Aalst, Sally  
**Subject:** FW: Total hospitalisations/ICU for outbreak

OFFICIAL

Hi Karen,

As discussed – we would need the ICU admissions table (middle table) filtered for just January for this enquiry we have been discussing.

Thanks

Alex

**Alex McConachie** | Director, Media and Communications  
**COVID-19 Communications** | COVID-19 Response | ACT Health Directorate  
 Level 3, 2-6 Bowes Street Phillip ACT 2606  
 T 02 6207 5253 M [REDACTED] E [covid-19media@act.gov.au](mailto:covid-19media@act.gov.au)  
[health.act.gov.au](http://health.act.gov.au)

**Media line:** 02 6205 9099

**From:** Tzavalas, Olivia (Health) <[Olivia.Tzavalas@act.gov.au](mailto:Olivia.Tzavalas@act.gov.au)> **On Behalf Of** Peffer, Dave (Health)  
**Sent:** Friday, 28 January 2022 4:50 PM  
**To:** Bergin, Catherine <[Catherine.Bergin@act.gov.au](mailto:Catherine.Bergin@act.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** FW: Total hospitalisations/ICU for outbreak

OFFICIAL

**From:** McGufficke, Kerri (Health) <[Kerri.McGufficke@act.gov.au](mailto:Kerri.McGufficke@act.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Friday, 28 January 2022 11:26 AM  
**To:** CHECC <[CHECC@act.gov.au](mailto:CHECC@act.gov.au)>; COVID-19 Comms <[COVID-19Comms@act.gov.au](mailto:COVID-19Comms@act.gov.au)>; COVID-19 HECC LO CHS <[HECC.LOCHS@act.gov.au](mailto:HECC.LOCHS@act.gov.au)>; GovernmentBusinessHealth <[GovernmentBusinessHealth@act.gov.au](mailto:GovernmentBusinessHealth@act.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** Rogers, Tamerra <[Tamerra.Rogers@act.gov.au](mailto:Tamerra.Rogers@act.gov.au)>; Pulli, Tracey (Health) <[Tracey.Pulli@act.gov.au](mailto:Tracey.Pulli@act.gov.au)>; Gleeson, Jody <[Jody.Gleeson@act.gov.au](mailto:Jody.Gleeson@act.gov.au)>; Peffer, Dave (Health) <[Dave.Peffer@act.gov.au](mailto:Dave.Peffer@act.gov.au)>; Walton, Nasa (Health) <[Nasa.Walton@act.gov.au](mailto:Nasa.Walton@act.gov.au)>; ACT Health EBM COVID-19 Comms <[EBM covid19comms@act.gov.au](mailto:EBM covid19comms@act.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** RE: Total hospitalisations/ICU for outbreak

OFFICIAL

**As at 20:00 27 January 2022**

1. Total number of inpatients with COVID-19 admitted in public hospitals since the outbreak began across both public hospitals – 393

2. Total number of patients with COVID-19 who have been in ICU in public hospitals since the outbreak began – 63
3. Total number of patients with COVID-19 ventilated since the outbreak began – 31

#### Vaccination status of inpatients

<b>All admissions hospitalised</b>		
Vaccinated 1st dose	29	7.4%
Fully vaccinated	116	29.5%
Unvaccinated	139	35.4%
Unknown	109	27.7%
<b>Admissions</b>	<b>393</b>	
<b>ICU Admissions hospitalised</b>		
Vaccinated 1st dose	6	9.5%
Fully vaccinated	8	12.7%
Unvaccinated	37	58.7%
Unknown	12	19.0%
<b>Admissions</b>	<b>63</b>	
<b>ICU Ventilated hospitalised</b>		
Vaccinated 1st dose	4	12.9%
Fully vaccinated	2	6.5%
Unvaccinated	21	67.7%
Unknown	4	12.9%
<b>Admissions</b>	<b>31</b>	

**Kerri McGufficke** | Senior Director CHS DHR Readiness Lead  
 Phone: (02) 5124 4425 | Ext: 44425 | Email: [kerri.mcgufficke@act.gov.au](mailto:kerri.mcgufficke@act.gov.au)  
 B28 Level 2 | Canberra Hospital | Yamba Drive Garran ACT 2605  
**Chief Information Office | Canberra Health Services | ACT Government**  
 PO Box 11, Woden ACT 2606 | [health.act.gov.au](http://health.act.gov.au)  
**RELIABLE | PROGRESSIVE | RESPECTFUL | KIND**

**Lowes, Shannon (Health)**

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**From:** Harper, Charlotte (Health)  
**Sent:** Monday, 31 January 2022 2:57 PM  
**To:** McConachie, Alex  
**Cc:** Canberra Health Services Media; COVID-19 Media  
**Subject:** Canberra Times | vaccination status in ICU

## UNOFFICIAL

Hi Alex,  
Please see info below.  
Charlotte

*Where possible, clinical staff ask patients about their vaccination status on arrival in a health facility and record details. Currently the data does not distinguish between those who have had two doses of a COVID-19 vaccination and those who have had three. Both groups are included in the category 'fully vaccinated'.*

There have been 25 ICU patients from 01/01/2022 to 30/01/2022 (8pm).

9 Fully Vaccinated  
6 Not vaccinated  
1 Vaccinated with 1 dose  
9 Vaccination status unknown

**Lowes, Shannon (Health)**

---

**From:** COVID-19 Media  
**Sent:** Monday, 31 January 2022 3:00 PM  
**To:** Rainbow, Jed  
**Cc:** COVID-19 Media; Van Aalst, Sally; Harper, Charlotte (Health); ACT Health Office of the Chief Health Officer  
**Subject:** RE: Media inquiry: Vaccination statuses  
**Categories:** 7. For info/ actioned

## OFFICIAL

Hi Jed,

CHS has provided the following additional info re ICU admissions and vaccination status:

*Where possible, clinical staff ask patients about their vaccination status on arrival in a health facility and record details. Currently the data does not distinguish between those who have had two doses of a COVID-19 vaccination and those who have had three. Both groups are included in the category 'fully vaccinated'.*

There have been 25 ICU patients from 01/01/2022 to 30/01/2022 (8pm).

9 Fully Vaccinated  
 6 Not vaccinated  
 1 Vaccinated with 1 dose  
 9 Vaccination status unknown

Thanks

Alex

Alex McConachie | Director, Media and Communications  
 COVID-19 Communications | COVID-19 Response | ACT Health Directorate  
 Level 3, 2-6 Bowes Street Phillip ACT 2606  
 T 02 6207 5253 M [REDACTED] E [covid-19media@act.gov.au](mailto:covid-19media@act.gov.au)  
[health.act.gov.au](http://health.act.gov.au)

Media line: 02 6205 9099

**From:** Rainbow, Jed <[Jed.Rainbow@act.gov.au](mailto:Jed.Rainbow@act.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Friday, 28 January 2022 4:37 PM  
**To:** COVID-19 Media <[COVID-19Media@act.gov.au](mailto:COVID-19Media@act.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** RE: Media inquiry: Vaccination statuses

Hi Alex – This is going through approvals at the moment.

Jed Rainbow | Media Adviser  
 ACT Government Communications Unit  
 Phone: 02 6207 7799 | Mobile: [REDACTED] | Email: [jed.rainbow@act.gov.au](mailto:jed.rainbow@act.gov.au)

**From:** COVID-19 Media <[COVID-19Media@act.gov.au](mailto:COVID-19Media@act.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Friday, 28 January 2022 3:54 PM  
**To:** Rainbow, Jed <[Jed.Rainbow@act.gov.au](mailto:Jed.Rainbow@act.gov.au)>



Cc: COVID-19 Media <COVID-19Media@act.gov.au>

Subject: FW: Media inquiry: Vaccination statuses

OFFICIAL

Hi Jed, for approval please:

- Given the small numbers of deaths in the ACT, no trends can be identified from these figures.
- Data is not available on the vaccination status for ICU patients throughout this period.
- ACT Health does not routinely collect comorbidity data for COVID-19 positive cases for reporting purposes.
- It is important to note that there are often several complexities associated with the cause of death for an individual, including possible underlying health conditions. Vaccination status is only one part of the picture.
- The key message from experts remains that vaccination significantly reduces the risk of serious illness for the majority of people, and we continue to encourage anyone who is eligible to get vaccinated.
- For the 11 people who died in 2022:

Fully Vaccinated (two or more doses)	6
Not vaccinated	2
Partially Vaccinated	2
Unknown	1

Thanks

Alex

Alex McConachie | Director, Media and Communications

COVID-19 Communications | COVID-19 Response | ACT Health Directorate

Level 3, 2-6 Bowes Street Phillip ACT 2606

T 02 6207 5253 M [REDACTED] E [covid-19media@act.gov.au](mailto:covid-19media@act.gov.au)

[health.act.gov.au](http://health.act.gov.au)

Media line: 02 6205 9099

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Monday, 24 January 2022 5:59 PM

To: COVID-19 Media <COVID-19Media@act.gov.au>

Subject: Media inquiry: Vaccination statuses

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the ACT Government. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi team,

I know ACT Health does not reveal the COVID-19 vaccination status of individuals who have died due to privacy but I was hoping this information could be provided as part of a group, as it has been in the past.

I was hoping it would be possible to get this data for the deaths and ICU admissions which have occurred in 2022.

This information is something readers of *The Canberra Times* have been asking about in recent weeks, especially as other states have provided this information. It helps people to understand the nature of the outbreak and the importance of vaccines.

Please see some questions below. Would be great if we could chat about this tomorrow.

Of the COVID-19 deaths in 2022 in the ACT, how many had been:

- Unvaccinated?
- Had received one dose?
- Had received two doses?
- Had received boosters shots?

Of the COVID-19 ICU admissions in 2022 in the ACT, how many had been:

- Unvaccinated?
- Had received one dose?
- Had received two doses?
- Had received boosters shots?

Thanks,

  
Journalist  
Australian Community Media

M   
W [www.canberratimes.com.au](http://www.canberratimes.com.au)

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**Lowes, Shannon (Health)**

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**From:** Walker, Robyn (Health)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 1 February 2022 9:55 AM  
**To:** ACT Health Office of the Chief Health Officer; Hundy, Rebecca (Health)  
**Cc:** COVID-19 HECC Operations  
**Subject:** RE: FOR FACT CHECK: Vaccination data response-14

**Categories:** 7. For info/ actioned

OFFICIAL

Laura,  
 Yes, whilst anecdotally true we cannot confirm the data.  
 Robyn

Robyn Walker | Executive Branch Manager Public Health Operations  
 Ph: 02 51243330 Mob: [REDACTED] Email: [robyn.walker@act.gov.au](mailto:robyn.walker@act.gov.au)  
 COVID 19 Response ACT Health Directorate  
 Level 2, 2-6 Bowes Street Phillip ACT 2606  
[health.act.gov.au](http://health.act.gov.au)

**From:** ACT Health Office of the Chief Health Officer <[ACTHealthOCHO@act.gov.au](mailto:ACTHealthOCHO@act.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 1 February 2022 9:49 AM  
**To:** Hundy, Rebecca (Health) <[Rebecca.Hundy@act.gov.au](mailto:Rebecca.Hundy@act.gov.au)>; Walker, Robyn (Health) <[Robyn.Walker@act.gov.au](mailto:Robyn.Walker@act.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** COVID-19 HECC Operations <[HECC.Operations@act.gov.au](mailto:HECC.Operations@act.gov.au)>; ACT Health Office of the Chief Health Officer <[ACTHealthOCHO@act.gov.au](mailto:ACTHealthOCHO@act.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** RE: FOR FACT CHECK: Vaccination data response

Thanks, I thought that was probably the case.

Robyn – are you happy with me asking for this line to be removed?

Laura McNeill | Director  
 Office of the Chief Health Officer  
 Ph: (02) 5124 9605 | Mob: [REDACTED] Email: [ACTHealthOCHO@act.gov.au](mailto:ACTHealthOCHO@act.gov.au)

**From:** Hundy, Rebecca (Health) <[Rebecca.Hundy@act.gov.au](mailto:Rebecca.Hundy@act.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 1 February 2022 9:46 AM  
**To:** ACT Health Office of the Chief Health Officer <[ACTHealthOCHO@act.gov.au](mailto:ACTHealthOCHO@act.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** COVID-19 HECC Operations <[HECC.Operations@act.gov.au](mailto:HECC.Operations@act.gov.au)>; Walker, Robyn (Health) <[Robyn.Walker@act.gov.au](mailto:Robyn.Walker@act.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** RE: FOR FACT CHECK: Vaccination data response

OFFICIAL

Thanks Laura. Although I know anecdotally that a number of the cases who died had been receiving palliative care, it's not something we collected routinely in our data. So I would agree with your suggestion of deleting the highlighted line.

**From:** ACT Health Office of the Chief Health Officer <[ACTHealthOCHO@act.gov.au](mailto:ACTHealthOCHO@act.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 1 February 2022 8:46 AM



**To:** Hundy, Rebecca (Health) <Rebecca.Hundy@act.gov.au>  
**Cc:** ACT Health Office of the Chief Health Officer <ACTHealthOCHO@act.gov.au>; COVID-19 HECC Operations <HECC.Operations@act.gov.au>; Walker, Robyn (Health) <Robyn.Walker@act.gov.au>  
**Subject:** FW: FOR FACT CHECK: Vaccination data response

Hi Bec,

The gift that keeps on giving!! Can we confirm the highlighted line? If we don't have data to back this up, my recommendation would be to leave it out, given we will then get asked how many.

Thx (and sorry),

Laura McNeill | Director  
 Office of the Chief Health Officer  
 Ph: (02) 5124 9605 | Mob: [REDACTED] | Email: [ACTHealthOCHO@act.gov.au](mailto:ACTHealthOCHO@act.gov.au)

**From:** McConachie, Alex <Alex.McConachie@act.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Monday, 31 January 2022 5:17 PM  
**To:** ACT Health Office of the Chief Health Officer <ACTHealthOCHO@act.gov.au>  
**Cc:** COVID-19 Media <COVID-19Media@act.gov.au>; Van Aalst, Sally <Sally.VanAalst@act.gov.au>  
**Subject:** FOR FACT CHECK: Vaccination data response

OFFICIAL

Hi Laura,

The MO has amended the vax data response to the below. Can we fact check (particularly around the assertion about deaths in palliative care) and also the MO has asked if we can provide a specific number on how many people from our 2022 deaths have been receiving palliative care?

- In 2022 the number of deaths among COVID-19 cases remains relatively small at a total of 11.
- Approximately half of those who died with COVID were fully vaccinated (two or more doses) and half were unvaccinated, not fully vaccinated or vaccination status is unknown.
- ACT Health does not routinely collect comorbidity data for COVID-19 positive cases for reporting purposes. However, it is important to note that there are often several complexities associated with the cause of death for an individual, including possible underlying health conditions. Of those who have died in 2022, a number were already undergoing palliative care at the time of their death.
- The key message from experts remains that vaccination significantly reduces the risk of serious illness for the majority of people, and we continue to encourage anyone who is eligible to get vaccinated.
- Where possible, clinical staff ask patients about their vaccination status on arrival in a health facility and record details. Currently the data does not distinguish between those who have had two doses of a COVID-19 vaccination and those who have had three. Both groups are included in the category 'fully vaccinated'.
- There have been 25 ICU patients from 01/01/2022 to 30/01/2022 (8pm):
  - 9 fully vaccinated
  - 6 not vaccinated
  - 1 vaccinated with 1 dose
  - 9 vaccination status unknown

Thanks

Alex

Alex McConachie | Director, Media and Communications  
COVID-19 Communications | COVID-19 Response | ACT Health Directorate  
Level 3, 2-6 Bowes Street Phillip ACT 2606  
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[health.act.gov.au](http://health.act.gov.au)

Media line: 02 6205 9099



**Lowes, Shannon (Health)**

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**From:** ACT Health Office of the Chief Health Officer  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 1 February 2022 10:05 AM  
**To:** COVID-19 Media  
**Cc:** ACT Health Office of the Chief Health Officer; Walker, Robyn (Health); Coleman, Kerry (Health)  
**Subject:** FW: FOR FACT CHECK: Vaccination data response

Hi Alex,

Our preference would be not to use this line. While we have some anecdotal information on this, we cannot back it up with data. As such if we are asked to clarify the numbers, we will not be able to do so.

If the Minister's office wants to continue to use the line, they need to qualify that the information is anecdotal.

Thx

Laura McNeill | Director

Office of the Chief Health Officer

Ph: (02) 5124 9605 | Mob: [REDACTED] | Email: [ACTHealthOCHO@act.gov.au](mailto:ACTHealthOCHO@act.gov.au)

**From:** McConachie, Alex <[Alex.McConachie@act.gov.au](mailto:Alex.McConachie@act.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Monday, 31 January 2022 5:17 PM  
**To:** ACT Health Office of the Chief Health Officer <[ACTHealthOCHO@act.gov.au](mailto:ACTHealthOCHO@act.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** COVID-19 Media <[COVID-19Media@act.gov.au](mailto:COVID-19Media@act.gov.au)>; Van Aalst, Sally <[Sally.VanAalst@act.gov.au](mailto:Sally.VanAalst@act.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** FOR FACT CHECK: Vaccination data response

OFFICIAL

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  - 9 fully vaccinated

- 6 not vaccinated
- 1 vaccinated with 1 dose
- 9 vaccination status unknown

Thanks

Alex

**Alex McConachie** | Director, Media and Communications  
**COVID-19 Communications** | COVID-19 Response | ACT Health Directorate  
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[health.act.gov.au](http://health.act.gov.au)

**Media line:** 02 6205 9099