

Lowes, Shannon (Health)

From: Rainbow, Jed
Sent: Tuesday, 1 February 2022 11:09 AM
To: COVID-19 Media
Cc: Van Aalst, Sally; Harper, Charlotte (Health)
Subject: RE: For clearance: Media response - vaccination status

Will get back to you – cheers.

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

From: COVID-19 Media <COVID-19Media@act.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 1 February 2022 11:00 AM
To: Rainbow, Jed <Jed.Rainbow@act.gov.au>; COVID-19 Media <COVID-19Media@act.gov.au>
Cc: Van Aalst, Sally <Sally.VanAalst@act.gov.au>; Harper, Charlotte (Health) <Charlotte.A.Harper@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: For clearance: Media response - vaccination status

OFFICIAL

Thanks Jed, given that just want to confirm you're happy with this bit being removed in that case:

- Of those who have died in 2022, a number were already undergoing palliative care at the time of their death.

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
health.act.gov.au

Media line: 02 6205 9099

From: Rainbow, Jed <Jed.Rainbow@act.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 1 February 2022 10:57 AM
To: COVID-19 Media <COVID-19Media@act.gov.au>
Cc: Van Aalst, Sally <Sally.VanAalst@act.gov.au>; Harper, Charlotte (Health) <Charlotte.A.Harper@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: For clearance: Media response - vaccination status

Thanks Alex – if it can't be backed up with data then yes, best left out.

Happy to proceed as cleared below. Cheers.

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

From: COVID-19 Media <COVID-19Media@act.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 1 February 2022 10:07 AM

To: Rainbow, Jed <Jed.Rainbow@act.gov.au>; COVID-19 Media <COVID-19Media@act.gov.au>
Cc: Van Aalst, Sally <Sally.VanAalst@act.gov.au>; Harper, Charlotte (Health) <Charlotte.A.Harper@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: For clearance: Media response - vaccination status

OFFICIAL

Hi Jed,

Re the line the Minister has added about deaths receiving palliative care - 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.

Given this, please let me know how you would like to proceed

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
 health.act.gov.au

Media line: 02 6205 9099

From: Rainbow, Jed <Jed.Rainbow@act.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 31 January 2022 5:11 PM
To: COVID-19 Media <COVID-19Media@act.gov.au>
Subject: FW: For clearance: Media response - vaccination status

Hi team

Approved as below – but Minister has asked if we can say what number of people died in palliative care, please.

She'd also really like to know the vax status of all people in ICU and those who've died, if at all possible.

Cheers
 Jed

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

- 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

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,

[REDACTED]
Journalist
Australian Community Media

M [REDACTED]
W www.canberratimes.com.au

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Lowes, Shannon (Health)

From: Coleman, Kerry (Health)
Sent: Wednesday, 2 February 2022 8:38 PM
To: Johnston, Vanessa (Health)
Subject: Fwd: Vaccination data response

For some reason we can't work this one out - with your fresh brain can you help tomorrow?

From: Coleman, Kerry (Health) <Kerry.Coleman@act.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, February 2, 2022 8:37:34 PM
To: Walker, Robyn (Health) <Robyn.Walker@act.gov.au>; McConachie, Alex <Alex.McConachie@act.gov.au>; Singleton, Sally (Health) <Sally.Singleton@act.gov.au>; Hundy, Rebecca (Health) <Rebecca.Hundy@act.gov.au>
Cc: COVID-19 Media <COVID-19Media@act.gov.au>; ACT Health Office of the Chief Health Officer <ACTHealthOCHO@act.gov.au>; Van Aalst, Sally <Sally.VanAalst@act.gov.au>
Subject: Re: Vaccination data response

Thanks Robyn - i think we are still not hitting the mark...

I've just sent something back re epi and think its about high proportion of poor outcomes are vaccinated, bcs so much of population vaccinated - and how do we present that vaccination has a lower risk of bad outcome based on larger data sets of jurisdictions.

I just haven't got the head space to come up with it - though i know i should be able to...

From: Walker, Robyn (Health) <Robyn.Walker@act.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, February 2, 2022 6:48:29 PM
To: Coleman, Kerry (Health) <Kerry.Coleman@act.gov.au>; McConachie, Alex <Alex.McConachie@act.gov.au>; Singleton, Sally (Health) <Sally.Singleton@act.gov.au>; Hundy, Rebecca (Health) <Rebecca.Hundy@act.gov.au>
Cc: COVID-19 Media <COVID-19Media@act.gov.au>; ACT Health Office of the Chief Health Officer <ACTHealthOCHO@act.gov.au>; Van Aalst, Sally <Sally.VanAalst@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Vaccination data response

OFFICIAL

Kerry and Sally

Commonwealth data reveals 78% of deaths due to COVID 19 are in the 70 years and older age group. (NSW data 85%).

Older age is in itself a significant risk factor for all serious illnesses particularly when combined with significant underlying health conditions.

ACT Health treats each individual no matter the age on their clinical presentation and provides appropriate therapeutic interventions as indicated.

Currently the line list received from the CHECC includes dose 1 and dose 2 vaccines but not a line for boosters. We can ask for this. For the deaths Bec can and has looked up their status on AIR.

Not sure if this helps

Robyn

From: Coleman, Kerry (Health) <Kerry.Coleman@act.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 2 February 2022 5:13 PM
To: McConachie, Alex <Alex.McConachie@act.gov.au>; Walker, Robyn (Health) <Robyn.Walker@act.gov.au>; Singleton, Sally (Health) <Sally.Singleton@act.gov.au>; Hundy, Rebecca (Health) <Rebecca.Hundy@act.gov.au>
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Subject: RE: Vaccination data response

OFFICIAL

Hi all – not sure if you have had a chance to think about what would be useful to compare.

I'm not keen on the palliative statement, rather something more general.

Remind me though why we don't have booster status, noting almost complete data on hospitalisation?

K

Kerryn

Public Health, Protection and Regulation | **ACT Health Directorate**

PH 5124 9442 | MOB [REDACTED]

25 Mulley Street, HOLDER ACT 2611 | GPO Box 825, Canberra City ACT 2601

E Kerryn.coleman@act.gov.au W <https://health.act.gov.au/>

From: McConachie, Alex <Alex.McConachie@act.gov.au>

Sent: Wednesday, 2 February 2022 3:46 PM

To: Coleman, Kerryn (Health) <Kerryn.Coleman@act.gov.au>

Cc: COVID-19 Media <COVID-19Media@act.gov.au>; ACT Health Office of the Chief Health Officer <ACTHealthOCHO@act.gov.au>; Van Aalst, Sally <Sally.VanAalst@act.gov.au>

Subject: Vaccination data response

OFFICIAL

I've added a line about national palliative care trends – let me know what you think. This is from Minister Hunt's remarks on Monday: <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/the-hon-greg-hunt-mp/media/canberra-press-conference-31-january-2022-on-australia-covid-update-vaccine-booster-program-and-omicron-ba2-sub-variant>

- 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.
- Due to the ACT's small sample size of deaths it is difficult to identify trends, however national data from the Commonwealth indicates that of deaths from COVID-19 nationwide, about 60 per cent were receiving palliative care.
- 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'.
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 - 9 fully vaccinated
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 - 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

health.act.gov.au

Media line: 02 6205 9099

Lowes, Shannon (Health)

From: COVID-19 Media
Sent: Wednesday, 2 February 2022 4:57 PM
To: [REDACTED] COVID-19 Media
Subject: RE: Media inquiry: Vaccination statuses

OFFICIAL

If we can't get this one over the line by the end of tomorrow, happy to look at that. Leave it with me.

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
health.act.gov.au

Media line: 02 6205 9099

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 2 February 2022 2:31 PM
To: COVID-19 Media <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.

Hey Alex,

Further to our conversation earlier, I would welcome a background briefing if there are difficulties in articulating the data.

Thanks,

[REDACTED]
 Journalist
 Australian Community Media

M [REDACTED]
 W www.canberratimes.com.au

On Fri, Jan 28, 2022 at 5:22 PM COVID-19 Media <COVID-19Media@act.gov.au> wrote:

OFFICIAL

Hi [REDACTED]

Will have to be Monday morning for this one – apologies.

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

health.act.gov.au

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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.

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Journalist
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M [REDACTED]
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Lowes, Shannon (Health)

From: Singleton, Sally (Health)
Sent: Thursday, 3 February 2022 10:40 AM
To: Van Aalst, Sally; Coleman, Kerry (Health); Walker, Robyn (Health); McConachie, Alex; Hundy, Rebecca (Health)
Cc: COVID-19 Media; ACT Health Office of the Chief Health Officer
Subject: RE: Vaccination data response

OFFICIAL

Thanks Sally V,
 I'm just reviewing now 😊
 Sal

From: Van Aalst, Sally <Sally.VanAalst@act.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 3 February 2022 10:37 AM
To: Coleman, Kerry (Health) <Kerry.Coleman@act.gov.au>; Walker, Robyn (Health) <Robyn.Walker@act.gov.au>; McConachie, Alex <Alex.McConachie@act.gov.au>; Singleton, Sally (Health) <Sally.Singleton@act.gov.au>; Hundy, Rebecca (Health) <Rebecca.Hundy@act.gov.au>
Cc: COVID-19 Media <COVID-19Media@act.gov.au>; ACT Health Office of the Chief Health Officer <ACTHealthOCHO@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Vaccination data response

OFFICIAL

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The office have pushed for us to reference palliative care – if we can't we will need to brief back up on why.

Appreciate everyone's help. Sally

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Subject: RE: Vaccination data response

OFFICIAL

Kerryn and Sally

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Robyn

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To: McConachie, Alex <Alex.McConachie@act.gov.au>; Walker, Robyn (Health) <Robyn.Walker@act.gov.au>; Singleton, Sally (Health) <Sally.Singleton@act.gov.au>; Hundy, Rebecca (Health) <Rebecca.Hundy@act.gov.au>

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Subject: RE: Vaccination data response

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I'm not keen on the palliative statement, rather something more general.

Remind me though why we don't have booster status, noting almost complete data on hospitalisation?

K

Kerryn

Public Health, Protection and Regulation | ACT Health Directorate

PH 5124 9442 | MOB [REDACTED]

25 Mulley Street, HOLDER ACT 2611 | GPO Box 825, Canberra City ACT 2601

E Kerryn.coleman@act.gov.au W <https://health.act.gov.au/>

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health.act.gov.au

Media line: 02 6205 9099

Lowes, Shannon (Health)

From: McConachie, Alex
Sent: Thursday, 3 February 2022 10:51 AM
To: Singleton, Sally (Health); Van Aalst, Sally; Coleman, Kerry (Health); Walker, Robyn (Health); Hundy, Rebecca (Health)
Cc: COVID-19 Media; ACT Health Office of the Chief Health Officer
Subject: RE: Vaccination data response

OFFICIAL

Hi Sally,

Yes the query was for 2022 only – here's the full text of the enquiry for reference:

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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Alex

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 COVID-19 Communications | COVID-19 Response | ACT Health Directorate
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To: Van Aalst, Sally <Sally.VanAalst@act.gov.au>; Coleman, Kerry (Health) <Kerry.Coleman@act.gov.au>; Walker, Robyn (Health) <Robyn.Walker@act.gov.au>; McConachie, Alex <Alex.McConachie@act.gov.au>; Hundy, Rebecca (Health) <Rebecca.Hundy@act.gov.au>

Cc: COVID-19 Media <COVID-19Media@act.gov.au>; ACT Health Office of the Chief Health Officer <ACTHealthOCHO@act.gov.au>

Subject: RE: Vaccination data response

OFFICIAL

Hi Sal and Team,

VJ, Bec and I have just been discussing – can we please clarify the initial request?

Is there a reason that the timeframe was from Jan 1 (ie was the question around numbers in 2022?), otherwise we would suggest reframing as since mid-Dec (ie since Omicron) vs since start of outbreak.

Bec is going to confirm numbers + vaccination status information.

Between us we will compile and come back to you

Kind regards,

Sally

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Subject: Re: Vaccination data response

Thanks Robyn - i think we are still not hitting the mark...

I've just sent something back re epi and think it's about high proportion of poor outcomes are vaccinated, bcs so much of population vaccinated - and how do we present that vaccination has a lower risk of bad outcome based on larger data sets of jurisdictions.

I just haven't got the head space to come up with it - though i know i should be able to...

From: Walker, Robyn (Health) <Robyn.Walker@act.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, February 2, 2022 6:48:29 PM
To: Coleman, Kerry (Health) <Kerry.Coleman@act.gov.au>; McConachie, Alex <Alex.McConachie@act.gov.au>; Singleton, Sally (Health) <Sally.Singleton@act.gov.au>; Hundy, Rebecca (Health) <Rebecca.Hundy@act.gov.au>
Cc: COVID-19 Media <COVID-19Media@act.gov.au>; ACT Health Office of the Chief Health Officer <ACTHealthOCHO@act.gov.au>; Van Aalst, Sally <Sally.VanAalst@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Vaccination data response

OFFICIAL

Kerry and Sally

Commonwealth data reveals 78% of deaths due to COVID 19 are in the 70 years and older age group. (NSW data 85%).

Older age is in itself a significant risk factor for all serious illnesses particularly when combined with significant underlying health conditions.

ACT Health treats each individual no matter the age on their clinical presentation and provides appropriate therapeutic interventions as indicated.

Currently the line list received from the CHECC includes dose 1 and dose 2 vaccines but not a line for boosters. We can ask for this. For the deaths Bec can and has looked up their status on AIR.

Not sure if this helps

Robyn

From: Coleman, Kerry (Health) <Kerry.Coleman@act.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 2 February 2022 5:13 PM
To: McConachie, Alex <Alex.McConachie@act.gov.au>; Walker, Robyn (Health) <Robyn.Walker@act.gov.au>; Singleton, Sally (Health) <Sally.Singleton@act.gov.au>; Hundy, Rebecca (Health) <Rebecca.Hundy@act.gov.au>
Cc: COVID-19 Media <COVID-19Media@act.gov.au>; ACT Health Office of the Chief Health Officer <ACTHealthOCHO@act.gov.au>; Van Aalst, Sally <Sally.VanAalst@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Vaccination data response

OFFICIAL

Hi all – not sure if you have had a chance to think about what would be useful to compare.

I'm not keen on the palliative statement, rather something more general.

Remind me though why we don't have booster status, noting almost complete data on hospitalisation?

K

Kerry

Public Health, Protection and Regulation | ACT Health Directorate

PH 5124 9442 | MOBILE [REDACTED]

25 Mulley Street, HOLDER ACT 2611 | GPO Box 825, Canberra City ACT 2601

E Kerry.coleman@act.gov.au W <https://health.act.gov.au/>

From: McConachie, Alex <Alex.McConachie@act.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 2 February 2022 3:46 PM
To: Coleman, Kerry (Health) <Kerry.Coleman@act.gov.au>
Cc: COVID-19 Media <COVID-19Media@act.gov.au>; ACT Health Office of the Chief Health Officer <ACTHealthOCHO@act.gov.au>; Van Aalst, Sally <Sally.VanAalst@act.gov.au>
Subject: Vaccination data response

OFFICIAL

I've added a line about national palliative care trends – let me know what you think. This is from Minister Hunt's remarks on Monday: <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/the-hon-greg-hunt-mp/media/canberra-press-conference-31-january-2022-on-australia-covid-update-vaccine-booster-program-and-omicron-ba2-sub-variant>

- 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.
- Due to the ACT's small sample size of deaths it is difficult to identify trends, however national data from the Commonwealth indicates that of deaths from COVID-19 nationwide, about 60 per cent were receiving palliative care.
- 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
 T 02 6207 5253 M [REDACTED] E covid-19media@act.gov.au
health.act.gov.au

Media line: 02 6205 9099

Lowes, Shannon (Health)

From: Johnston, Vanessa (Health)
Sent: Thursday, 3 February 2022 2:50 PM
To: McConachie, Alex; Hundy, Rebecca (Health)
Cc: Van Aalst, Sally; Singleton, Sally (Health); Walker, Robyn (Health)
Subject: RE: Vaccination data response

OFFICIAL

Good you can count Alex – thanks.

All good to go to Kerry.

Best,
 Vanessa

From: McConachie, Alex <Alex.McConachie@act.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 3 February 2022 2:23 PM
To: Johnston, Vanessa (Health) <Vanessa.Johnston@act.gov.au>; Hundy, Rebecca (Health) <Rebecca.Hundy@act.gov.au>
Cc: Van Aalst, Sally <Sally.VanAalst@act.gov.au>; Singleton, Sally (Health) <Sally.Singleton@act.gov.au>; Walker, Robyn (Health) <Robyn.Walker@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Vaccination data response

OFFICIAL

Hi Vanessa,

Not quite sure where we're stuck here – I have gone back through the epis though and found that on the 16th we reported 1 new death through epi, but the total increased by 2 due to a backlogged death being reported by an RACF so the total increased by 2 that day and we publicly reported both.

Let me know if that solves the issue or you were referring to something else!

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
health.act.gov.au

Media line: 02 6205 9099

From: Johnston, Vanessa (Health) <Vanessa.Johnston@act.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 3 February 2022 2:12 PM
To: McConachie, Alex <Alex.McConachie@act.gov.au>; Hundy, Rebecca (Health) <Rebecca.Hundy@act.gov.au>
Cc: Van Aalst, Sally <Sally.VanAalst@act.gov.au>; Singleton, Sally (Health) <Sally.Singleton@act.gov.au>; Walker, Robyn (Health) <Robyn.Walker@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Vaccination data response

OFFICIAL

Looks to be in this daily epi report?

Alex/Sal – how do we want to deal with this?

V

From: McConachie, Alex <Alex.McConachie@act.gov.au>

Sent: Thursday, 3 February 2022 2:08 PM

To: Hundy, Rebecca (Health) <Rebecca.Hundy@act.gov.au>; Johnston, Vanessa (Health) <Vanessa.Johnston@act.gov.au>

Cc: Van Aalst, Sally <Sally.VanAalst@act.gov.au>; Singleton, Sally (Health) <Sally.Singleton@act.gov.au>; Walker, Robyn (Health) <Robyn.Walker@act.gov.au>

Subject: RE: Vaccination data response

OFFICIAL

Hi all,

I am tracking deaths reported on the following dates:

11/1 (male in 80s)
 16/1 x2 (male in 50s and male in 90s)
 17/1 (female in 50s)
 18/1 (female in 80s)
 21/1 x2 (male in 60s and male in 90s)
 24/1 x2 (male in 40s and male in 90s)
 25/1 (female in 80s)
 28/1 (male in 80s)

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

health.act.gov.au

Media line: 02 6205 9099

From: Hundy, Rebecca (Health) <Rebecca.Hundy@act.gov.au>

Sent: Thursday, 3 February 2022 2:03 PM

To: Johnston, Vanessa (Health) <Vanessa.Johnston@act.gov.au>; McConachie, Alex <Alex.McConachie@act.gov.au>

Cc: Van Aalst, Sally <Sally.VanAalst@act.gov.au>; Singleton, Sally (Health) <Sally.Singleton@act.gov.au>; Walker, Robyn (Health) <Robyn.Walker@act.gov.au>

Subject: RE: Vaccination data response

OFFICIAL

Hi Vanesa

I think it was probably reported at the time in the media – can you confirm @McConachie, Alex? 55yo male, unvaccinated, died on 15/1 (so presumably reported around 16/1?). The data team had likely included in their numbers as they noted he had a date of death recorded, but the 'died' field was not completed.

Thanks
Rebecca.

From: Johnston, Vanessa (Health) <Vanessa.Johnston@act.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 3 February 2022 1:58 PM
To: Hundy, Rebecca (Health) <Rebecca.Hundy@act.gov.au>; McConachie, Alex <Alex.McConachie@act.gov.au>
Cc: Van Aalst, Sally <Sally.VanAalst@act.gov.au>; Singleton, Sally (Health) <Sally.Singleton@act.gov.au>; Walker, Robyn (Health) <Robyn.Walker@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Vaccination data response

OFFICIAL

Thanks Bec – we will need the details of this 11th case for the MO and for media – do we have

Date of death
Age
Vaccination status of this case

Best,
Vanessa

From: Hundy, Rebecca (Health) <Rebecca.Hundy@act.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 3 February 2022 1:45 PM
To: McConachie, Alex <Alex.McConachie@act.gov.au>
Cc: Van Aalst, Sally <Sally.VanAalst@act.gov.au>; Singleton, Sally (Health) <Sally.Singleton@act.gov.au>; Johnston, Vanessa (Health) <Vanessa.Johnston@act.gov.au>; Walker, Robyn (Health) <Robyn.Walker@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Vaccination data response

OFFICIAL

Hi Alex

I have double checked with the data team and we have tracked down the 11th death – it was recorded as a recovered case in the system so wasn't picked up in reports. Updated figures highlighted in yellow below.

Thanks
Rebecca.

Deaths in 2022 from COVID-19

- From 1 Jan 2022, there have been 11 deaths from COVID-19 in the ACT, 6 of these were in residents of aged care facilities.
- 7 of the people who died with COVID in 2022 were aged over 65 years, including four who were aged in their 80s and 3 in their 90s.
- 6 had received a primary course (two doses) of COVID-19 vaccine, of which 1 had received a booster dose. Two were partially vaccinated, two were unvaccinated, and one person had an unknown vaccination status.
- ACT Health does not routinely collect comorbidity data for COVID-19 positive cases for reporting purposes.
- Older age is a risk factor for severe disease, including death, as are several underlying comorbidities.

- Commonwealth and NSW data reveal that approximately 80% of deaths due to COVID-19 are in those aged 70 years and over.

Hospital admissions in 2022 from COVID-19

- There have been 22 ICU patients from 01/01/2022 to 30/01/2022:
 - 15 fully vaccinated including 3 who had received a booster dose
 - 7 unvaccinated
- Due to the relatively small number of deaths and ICU admission in the ACT, it is not possible to identify trends by vaccination status, although, with such a high vaccination rate in the ACT and level of community transmission of COVID-19, we expect to see some severe illness and deaths from COVID-19 among vaccinated individuals.
- This is reflected in NSW data where among cases between 26 November 2021 and 8 January 2022, although the number of hospitalisations, admissions to ICU and deaths is greater among those who had received two effective doses than those with no effective dose, the percentage of cases with these outcomes is still much higher among those with no effective dose. Among cases aged 12 years and over with no effective dose in NSW, 8.9% of cases were hospitalised, 1.5% of cases were admitted to ICU, and 0.6% of cases died. In comparison, among cases who had received two effective doses, 1.0% of cases were hospitalised, 0.1% were admitted to ICU, and less than 0.1% died.
- The key message from experts and real world data remains that vaccination significantly reduces the risk of serious illness, and we continue to encourage anyone who is eligible to get vaccinated. The booster vaccination is particularly important in preventing serious health outcomes from the Omicron variant.

From: McConachie, Alex <Alex.McConachie@act.gov.au>

Sent: Thursday, 3 February 2022 12:56 PM

To: Hundy, Rebecca (Health) <Rebecca.Hundy@act.gov.au>

Cc: Van Aalst, Sally <Sally.VanAalst@act.gov.au>; Singleton, Sally (Health) <Sally.Singleton@act.gov.au>; Johnston, Vanessa (Health) <Vanessa.Johnston@act.gov.au>; Walker, Robyn (Health) <Robyn.Walker@act.gov.au>

Subject: RE: Vaccination data response

OFFICIAL

Hi Bec,

I'm sorry about this – I'm tracking 11 deaths that we have publicly reported since 1 January – can we double check this please? We need to get this one resolved today please so a response as soon as possible would be appreciated.

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

health.act.gov.au

Media line: 02 6205 9099

From: Van Aalst, Sally <Sally.VanAalst@act.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 3 February 2022 12:52 PM
To: McConachie, Alex <Alex.McConachie@act.gov.au>
Subject: FW: Vaccination data response
Importance: High

OFFICIAL

and another!

From: Johnston, Vanessa (Health) <Vanessa.Johnston@act.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 3 February 2022 12:48 PM
To: Hundy, Rebecca (Health) <Rebecca.Hundy@act.gov.au>; Singleton, Sally (Health) <Sally.Singleton@act.gov.au>; Van Aalst, Sally <Sally.VanAalst@act.gov.au>
Cc: Walker, Robyn (Health) <Robyn.Walker@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Vaccination data response
Importance: High

OFFICIAL

Thanks Bec – that's great – have just added one qualifier. Sal from comms – this one ready to go to Kerryn, V.

Deaths in 2022 from COVID-19

- From 1 Jan 2022, there have been 10 deaths from COVID-19 in the ACT, 6 of these were in residents of aged care facilities.
- 7 of the people who died with COVID in 2022 were aged over 65 years, including four who were aged in their 80s and 3 in their 90s.
- 6 had received a primary course (two doses) of COVID-19 vaccine, of which 1 had received a booster dose. Two were partially vaccinated, one was unvaccinated, and one person had an unknown vaccination status.
- ACT Health does not routinely collect comorbidity data for COVID-19 positive cases for reporting purposes.
- Older age is a risk factor for severe disease, including death, as are several underlying comorbidities.
- Commonwealth and NSW data reveal that approximately 80% of deaths due to COVID-19 are in those aged 70 years and over.

Hospital admissions in 2022 from COVID-19

- There have been 22 ICU patients from 01/01/2022 to 30/01/2022:
 - 15 fully vaccinated including 3 who had received a booster dose
 - 7 unvaccinated
- Due to the relatively small number of deaths and ICU admission in the ACT, it is not possible to identify trends by vaccination status, although, with such a high vaccination rate in the ACT and level of community transmission of COVID-19, we expect to see some severe illness and deaths from COVID-19 among vaccinated individuals.

- This is reflected in NSW data where among cases between 26 November 2021 and 8 January 2022, although the number of hospitalisations, admissions to ICU and deaths is greater among those who had received two effective doses than those with no effective dose, the percentage of cases with these outcomes is still much higher among those with no effective dose. Among cases aged 12 years and over with no effective dose in NSW, 8.9% of cases were hospitalised, 1.5% of cases were admitted to ICU, and 0.6% of cases died. In comparison, among cases who had received two effective doses, 1.0% of cases were hospitalised, 0.1% were admitted to ICU, and less than 0.1% died.
- The key message from experts and real world data remains that vaccination significantly reduces the risk of serious illness, and we continue to encourage anyone who is eligible to get vaccinated. The booster vaccination is particularly important in preventing serious health outcomes from the Omicron variant.

From: Hundy, Rebecca (Health) <Rebecca.Hundy@act.gov.au>

Sent: Thursday, 3 February 2022 12:38 PM

To: Johnston, Vanessa (Health) <Vanessa.Johnston@act.gov.au>; Singleton, Sally (Health) <Sally.Singleton@act.gov.au>

Cc: Walker, Robyn (Health) <Robyn.Walker@act.gov.au>

Subject: RE: Vaccination data response

OFFICIAL

Hi All

Please see below with updated data. I have also updated the ICU admission data, noting the total number I have is three less than what was originally here (not sure the source of this data), but we have much more complete vaccination status data including boosters which has been validated via AIR. This is consistent with what was reported in the weekly epi report this week.

Thanks
Rebecca.

Deaths in 2022 from COVID-19

- From 1 Jan 2022, there have been 10 deaths from COVID-19 in the ACT, 6 of these were in residents of aged care facilities.
- 7 of the people who died with COVID in 2022 were aged over 65 years, including four who were aged in their 80s and 3 in their 90s.
- 6 had received a primary course (two doses) of COVID-19 vaccine, of which 1 had received a booster dose. Two were partially vaccinated, one was unvaccinated, and one person had an unknown vaccination status.
- ACT Health does not routinely collect comorbidity data for COVID-19 positive cases for reporting purposes.
- Older age is a risk factor for severe disease, including death, as are several underlying comorbidities.
- Commonwealth data reveals 78% of deaths due to COVID-19 are in those aged 70 years and over and in NSW, this figure is 85%.

Hospital admissions in 2022 from COVID-19

- There have been 22 ICU patients from 01/01/2022 to 30/01/2022:
 - 15 fully vaccinated including 3 who had received a booster dose

○ 7 unvaccinated

- Due to the relatively small number of deaths and ICU admission in the ACT, it is not possible to identify trends by vaccination status, although, with such a high vaccination rate in the ACT and level of community transmission of COVID-19, we expect to see some severe illness and deaths from COVID-19 among vaccinated individuals.
- This is reflected in NSW data where among cases between 26 November 2021 and 8 January 2022, although the number of hospitalisations, admissions to ICU and deaths is greater among those who had received two effective doses than those with no effective dose, the percentage of cases with these outcomes is still much higher among those with no effective dose. Among cases aged 12 years and over with no effective dose in NSW, 8.9% of cases were hospitalised, 1.5% of cases were admitted to ICU, and 0.6% of cases died. In comparison, among cases who had received two effective doses, 1.0% of cases were hospitalised, 0.1% were admitted to ICU, and less than 0.1% died.
- The key message from experts and real world data remains that vaccination significantly reduces the risk of serious illness, and we continue to encourage anyone who is eligible to get vaccinated. The booster vaccination is particularly important in preventing serious health outcomes from the Omicron variant.

From: Johnston, Vanessa (Health) <Vanessa.Johnston@act.gov.au>

Sent: Thursday, 3 February 2022 11:00 AM

To: Singleton, Sally (Health) <Sally.Singleton@act.gov.au>; Hundy, Rebecca (Health) <Rebecca.Hundy@act.gov.au>

Cc: Walker, Robyn (Health) <Robyn.Walker@act.gov.au>

Subject: RE: Vaccination data response

OFFICIAL

Thanks Sal.

@Hundy, Rebecca (Health) – would you possibly have a go at putting this all together with the correct data ? 😊

V.

From: Singleton, Sally (Health) <Sally.Singleton@act.gov.au>

Sent: Thursday, 3 February 2022 10:57 AM

To: Johnston, Vanessa (Health) <Vanessa.Johnston@act.gov.au>; Hundy, Rebecca (Health) <Rebecca.Hundy@act.gov.au>

Cc: Walker, Robyn (Health) <Robyn.Walker@act.gov.au>

Subject: RE: Vaccination data response

OFFICIAL

Thanks VJ,

I like that phrasing around ICU/hospital – so nice having your fresh brain! 😊

The extra brief points I just discussed with Bec added below – I think we should be really careful about putting any qualifiers in front of number of deaths on back of all the press coverage this week (ie I don't think should qualify with 'small' or 'low') – so maybe we can reframe first few points from yours VJ to be the below?

Maybe also the red text change to say 'comorbidities' rather than chronic disease – noting this includes things like pregnancy, obesity... etc!

Bec thanks for checking re the vaccine status + decades of life – noting that we have more complete data than indicated below.

Sal

- From 1 Jan 2022, there have been 10 deaths from COVID-19 in the ACT, 6 of these were in residents of aged care facilities.
- Of these deaths, one person was aged in their 40's, one in their 50's, one in their 60's, 4 people in their 80's, and three in their 90's

OR (it might be easier/cleaner to say it this was as per Vanessa's suggestion)

- 7 of the people who have died with COVID in 2022 were aged over 65 years.
- Of these 6 had received a primary course (two doses) of COVID-19 vaccine, of which 1 had received a booster dose. Two were partially vaccinated, one was unvaccinated, and one person had an unknown vaccination status.

From: Johnston, Vanessa (Health) <Vanessa.Johnston@act.gov.au>

Sent: Thursday, 3 February 2022 10:49 AM

To: Singleton, Sally (Health) <Sally.Singleton@act.gov.au>; Hundy, Rebecca (Health) <Rebecca.Hundy@act.gov.au>

Cc: Walker, Robyn (Health) <Robyn.Walker@act.gov.au>

Subject: RE: Vaccination data response

OFFICIAL

Hi guys,

As discussed – maybe refine data/narrative from this?

Best,

Vanessa

Deaths in 2022 from COVID-19

- 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 was not available.
- In 2022 the number of deaths among COVID-19 cases remains relatively small at a total of 10.
- 7 of 10 people who have died with COVID in 2022 were aged over 65 years. ACT Health does not routinely collect comorbidity data for COVID-19 positive cases for reporting purposes.
- Older age is a risk factor for severe disease, including death, as are several underlying comorbidities, that can include chronic diseases.
- Commonwealth data reveals 78% of deaths due to COVID-19 are in those aged 70 years and over and in NSW, this figure is 85%.

Hospital admissions in 2022 from COVID-19

- 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

- Due to the relatively small number of deaths and ICU admission in the ACT, it is not possible to identify trends by vaccination status, although, with such a high vaccination rate in the ACT and level of community transmission of COVID-19, we expect to see some severe illness and deaths from COVID-19 among vaccinated individuals.
- This is reflected in NSW data where among cases between 26 November 2021 and 8 January 2022, although the number of hospitalisations, admissions to ICU and deaths is greater among those who had received two effective doses than those with no effective dose, the *percentage* of cases with these outcomes is still much higher among those with no effective dose. Among cases aged 12 years and over with no effective dose in NSW, 8.9% of cases were hospitalised, 1.5% of cases were admitted to ICU, and 0.6% of cases died. In comparison, among cases who had received two effective doses, 1.0% of cases were hospitalised, 0.1% were admitted to ICU, and less than 0.1% died.
- The key message from experts and real world data remains that vaccination significantly reduces the risk of serious illness, and we continue to encourage anyone who is eligible to get vaccinated. The booster vaccination is particularly important in preventing serious health outcomes from the Omicron variant.

From: Coleman, Kerryn (Health) <Kerryn.Coleman@act.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 2 February 2022 8:38 PM
To: Johnston, Vanessa (Health) <Vanessa.Johnston@act.gov.au>
Subject: Fwd: Vaccination data response

OFFICIAL

For some reason we can't work this one out - with your fresh brain can you help tomorrow?

From: Coleman, Kerryn (Health) <Kerryn.Coleman@act.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, February 2, 2022 8:37:34 PM
To: Walker, Robyn (Health) <Robyn.Walker@act.gov.au>; McConachie, Alex <Alex.McConachie@act.gov.au>; Singleton, Sally (Health) <Sally.Singleton@act.gov.au>; Hundy, Rebecca (Health) <Rebecca.Hundy@act.gov.au>
Cc: COVID-19 Media <COVID-19Media@act.gov.au>; ACT Health Office of the Chief Health Officer <ACTHealthOCHO@act.gov.au>; Van Aalst, Sally <Sally.VanAalst@act.gov.au>
Subject: Re: Vaccination data response

Thanks Robyn - i think we are still not hitting the mark...

I've just sent something back re epi and think its about high proportion of poor outcomes are vaccinated, bcs so much of population vaccinated - and how do we present that vaccination has a lower risk of bad outcome based on larger data sets of jurisdictions.

I just haven't got the head space to come up with it - though i know i should be able to...

From: Walker, Robyn (Health) <Robyn.Walker@act.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, February 2, 2022 6:48:29 PM
To: Coleman, Kerryn (Health) <Kerryn.Coleman@act.gov.au>; McConachie, Alex <Alex.McConachie@act.gov.au>; Singleton, Sally (Health) <Sally.Singleton@act.gov.au>; Hundy, Rebecca (Health) <Rebecca.Hundy@act.gov.au>
Cc: COVID-19 Media <COVID-19Media@act.gov.au>; ACT Health Office of the Chief Health Officer <ACTHealthOCHO@act.gov.au>; Van Aalst, Sally <Sally.VanAalst@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Vaccination data response

OFFICIAL

Kerryn and Sally

Commonwealth data reveals 78% of deaths due to COVID 19 are in the 70 years and older age group. (NSW data 85%).

Older age is in itself a significant risk factor for all serious illnesses particularly when combined with significant underlying health conditions.

ACT Health treats each individual no matter the age on their clinical presentation and provides appropriate therapeutic interventions as indicated.

Currently the line list received from the CHECC includes dose 1 and dose 2 vaccines but not a line for boosters. We can ask for this. For the deaths Bec can and has looked up their status on AIR.

Not sure if this helps

Robyn

From: Coleman, Kerryn (Health) <Kerryn.Coleman@act.gov.au>

Sent: Wednesday, 2 February 2022 5:13 PM

To: McConachie, Alex <Alex.McConachie@act.gov.au>; Walker, Robyn (Health) <Robyn.Walker@act.gov.au>; Singleton, Sally (Health) <Sally.Singleton@act.gov.au>; Hundy, Rebecca (Health) <Rebecca.Hundy@act.gov.au>

Cc: COVID-19 Media <COVID-19Media@act.gov.au>; ACT Health Office of the Chief Health Officer <ACTHealthOCHO@act.gov.au>; Van Aalst, Sally <Sally.VanAalst@act.gov.au>

Subject: RE: Vaccination data response

OFFICIAL

Hi all – not sure if you have had a chance to think about what would be useful to compare.

I'm not keen on the palliative statement, rather something more general.

Remind me though why we don't have booster status, noting almost complete data on hospitalisation?

K

Kerryn

Public Health, Protection and Regulation | ACT Health Directorate

PH 5124 9442 | MOB [REDACTED]

25 Mulley Street, HOLDER ACT 2611 | GPO Box 825, Canberra City ACT 2601

E Kerryn.coleman@act.gov.au W <https://health.act.gov.au/>

From: McConachie, Alex <Alex.McConachie@act.gov.au>

Sent: Wednesday, 2 February 2022 3:46 PM

To: Coleman, Kerryn (Health) <Kerryn.Coleman@act.gov.au>

Cc: COVID-19 Media <COVID-19Media@act.gov.au>; ACT Health Office of the Chief Health Officer <ACTHealthOCHO@act.gov.au>; Van Aalst, Sally <Sally.VanAalst@act.gov.au>

Subject: Vaccination data response

OFFICIAL

I've added a line about national palliative care trends – let me know what you think. This is from Minister Hunt's remarks on Monday: <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/the-hon-greg-hunt-mp/media/canberra-press-conference-31-january-2022-on-australia-covid-update-vaccine-booster-program-and-omicron-ba2-sub-variant>

- 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.
- Due to the ACT's small sample size of deaths it is difficult to identify trends, however national data from the Commonwealth indicates that of deaths from COVID-19 nationwide, about 60 per cent were receiving palliative care.
- 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

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

health.act.gov.au

Media line: 02 6205 9099

Lowes, Shannon (Health)

From: Coleman, Kerry (Health)
Sent: Thursday, 3 February 2022 3:29 PM
To: McConachie, Alex
Cc: COVID-19 Media; ACT Health Office of the Chief Health Officer; Johnston, Vanessa (Health); Hundy, Rebecca (Health); Walker, Robyn (Health); Singleton, Sally (Health); Van Aalst, Sally
Subject: RE: Revised vaccination data response

OFFICIAL

Thanks Alex – this is good, and we should provide this.

They are aware of our concerns about palliative care comment – we cannot back up with evidence any comment we make about palliative care in our deaths as don't routinely collect that data, risk of being seen callous or similar to commenting on it particularly if we cannot back it up... if framed as not unexpected in this group with age and underlying comorbidities reflect susceptibility rather than its not unexpected because they are dying anyway?!?

K

Kerry

Public Health, Protection and Regulation | **ACT Health Directorate**
 PH 5124 9442 | **MOB** [REDACTED]
 25 Mulvey Street, HOLDER ACT 2611 | GPO Box 825, Canberra City ACT 2601
 E Kerry.coleman@act.gov.au W <https://health.act.gov.au/>

From: McConachie, Alex <Alex.McConachie@act.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 3 February 2022 2:53 PM
To: Coleman, Kerry (Health) <Kerry.Coleman@act.gov.au>
Cc: COVID-19 Media <COVID-19Media@act.gov.au>; ACT Health Office of the Chief Health Officer <ACTHealthOCHO@act.gov.au>; Johnston, Vanessa (Health) <Vanessa.Johnston@act.gov.au>; Hundy, Rebecca (Health) <Rebecca.Hundy@act.gov.au>; Walker, Robyn (Health) <Robyn.Walker@act.gov.au>; Singleton, Sally (Health) <Sally.Singleton@act.gov.au>; Van Aalst, Sally <Sally.VanAalst@act.gov.au>
Subject: Revised vaccination data response

Hi Kerry,

Hoping we have hit the mark here with this revised response – we've been working extensively with Vanessa, Bec, Robyn and Sally on landing it at this point. Let me know what you think.

I think it would be good if we could have a background explanation from the Minister's Office about why we haven't referred to palliative care here too – perhaps we could say broader age data was more relevant in presenting this dataset?

Deaths in 2022 from COVID-19

- From 1 Jan 2022, there have been 11 deaths from COVID-19 in the ACT, 6 of these were in residents of aged care facilities.
- 7 of the people who died with COVID in 2022 were aged over 65 years, including four who were aged in their 80s and 3 in their 90s.
- 6 had received a primary course (two doses) of COVID-19 vaccine, of which 1 had received a booster dose. Two were partially vaccinated, two were unvaccinated, and one person had an unknown vaccination status.

- ACT Health does not routinely collect comorbidity data for COVID-19 positive cases for reporting purposes.
- Older age is a risk factor for severe disease, including death, as are several underlying comorbidities.
- Commonwealth and NSW data reveal that approximately 80% of deaths due to COVID-19 are in those aged 70 years and over.

Hospital admissions in 2022 from COVID-19

- There have been 22 ICU patients from 01/01/2022 to 30/01/2022:
 - 15 fully vaccinated including 3 who had received a booster dose
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- Due to the relatively small number of deaths and ICU admission in the ACT, it is not possible to identify trends by vaccination status, although, with such a high vaccination rate in the ACT and level of community transmission of COVID-19, we expect to see some severe illness and deaths from COVID-19 among vaccinated individuals.
- This is reflected in NSW data where among cases between 26 November 2021 and 8 January 2022, although the number of hospitalisations, admissions to ICU and deaths is greater among those who had received two effective doses than those with no effective dose, the percentage of cases with these outcomes is still much higher among those with no effective dose. Among cases aged 12 years and over with no effective dose in NSW, 8.9% of cases were hospitalised, 1.5% of cases were admitted to ICU, and 0.6% of cases died. In comparison, among cases who had received two effective doses, 1.0% of cases were hospitalised, 0.1% were admitted to ICU, and less than 0.1% died.
- The key message from experts and real world data remains that vaccination significantly reduces the risk of serious illness, and we continue to encourage anyone who is eligible to get vaccinated. The booster vaccination is particularly important in preventing serious health outcomes from the Omicron variant.

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
health.act.gov.au

Media line: 02 6205 9099

From: Walker, Robyn (Health) <Robyn.Walker@act.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, February 2, 2022 6:48:29 PM
To: Coleman, Kerry (Health) <Kerry.Coleman@act.gov.au>; McConachie, Alex <Alex.McConachie@act.gov.au>; Singleton, Sally (Health) <Sally.Singleton@act.gov.au>; Hundy, Rebecca (Health) <Rebecca.Hundy@act.gov.au>
Cc: COVID-19 Media <COVID-19Media@act.gov.au>; ACT Health Office of the Chief Health Officer <ACTHealthOCHO@act.gov.au>; Van Aalst, Sally <Sally.VanAalst@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Vaccination data response

OFFICIAL

Kerry and Sally

Commonwealth data reveals 78% of deaths due to COVID 19 are in the 70 years and older age group. (NSW data 85%).

Older age is in itself a significant risk factor for all serious illnesses particularly when combined with significant underlying health conditions.

ACT Health treats each individual no matter the age on their clinical presentation and provides appropriate therapeutic interventions as indicated.

Currently the line list received from the CHECC includes dose 1 and dose 2 vaccines but not a line for boosters. We can ask for this. For the deaths Bec can and has looked up their status on AIR.

Not sure if this helps

Robyn

From: Coleman, Kerry (Health) <Kerry.Coleman@act.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 2 February 2022 5:13 PM
To: McConachie, Alex <Alex.McConachie@act.gov.au>; Walker, Robyn (Health) <Robyn.Walker@act.gov.au>; Singleton, Sally (Health) <Sally.Singleton@act.gov.au>; Hundy, Rebecca (Health) <Rebecca.Hundy@act.gov.au>
Cc: COVID-19 Media <COVID-19Media@act.gov.au>; ACT Health Office of the Chief Health Officer <ACTHealthOCHO@act.gov.au>; Van Aalst, Sally <Sally.VanAalst@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Vaccination data response

OFFICIAL

Hi all – not sure if you have had a chance to think about what would be useful to compare.

I'm not keen on the palliative statement, rather something more general.

Remind me though why we don't have booster status, noting almost complete data on hospitalisation?

K

Kerry

Public Health, Protection and Regulation | ACT Health Directorate

PH 5124 9442 | MOB [REDACTED]

25 Mulley Street, HOLDER ACT 2611 | GPO Box 825, Canberra City ACT 2601

E Kerry.coleman@act.gov.au W <https://health.act.gov.au/>

From: McConachie, Alex <Alex.McConachie@act.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 2 February 2022 3:46 PM
To: Coleman, Kerry (Health) <Kerry.Coleman@act.gov.au>
Cc: COVID-19 Media <COVID-19Media@act.gov.au>; ACT Health Office of the Chief Health Officer <ACTHealthOCHO@act.gov.au>; Van Aalst, Sally <Sally.VanAalst@act.gov.au>
Subject: Vaccination data response

OFFICIAL

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 - 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
health.act.gov.au

Media line: 02 6205 9099

Lowes, Shannon (Health)

From: Rainbow, Jed
Sent: Thursday, 3 February 2022 3:40 PM
To: COVID-19 Media
Cc: Van Aalst, Sally
Subject: RE: Media inquiry: Vaccination statuses

Thanks Alex – with he Min.

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

From: COVID-19 Media <COVID-19Media@act.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 3 February 2022 3:32 PM
To: Rainbow, Jed <Jed.Rainbow@act.gov.au>; COVID-19 Media <COVID-19Media@act.gov.au>
Cc: Van Aalst, Sally <Sally.VanAalst@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Media inquiry: Vaccination statuses

OFFICIAL

Hi Jed,

Please see below revised response for the Minister's review. I understand CHO has communicated ACT Health's advice/concerns in relation to specifically discussing palliative care to the Minister, but please let me know if you need any further context.

Deaths in 2022 from COVID-19

- From 1 Jan 2022, there have been 11 deaths from COVID-19 in the ACT, 6 of these were in residents of aged care facilities.
- 7 of the people who died with COVID in 2022 were aged over 65 years, including four who were aged in their 80s and 3 in their 90s.
- 6 had received a primary course (two doses) of COVID-19 vaccine, of which 1 had received a booster dose. Two were partially vaccinated, two were unvaccinated, and one person had an unknown vaccination status.
- ACT Health does not routinely collect comorbidity data for COVID-19 positive cases for reporting purposes.
- Older age is a risk factor for severe disease, including death, as are several underlying comorbidities.
- Commonwealth and NSW data reveal that approximately 80% of deaths due to COVID-19 are in those aged 70 years and over.

Hospital admissions in 2022 from COVID-19

- There have been 22 ICU patients from 01/01/2022 to 30/01/2022:
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transmission of COVID-19, we expect to see some severe illness and deaths from COVID-19 among vaccinated individuals.

- This is reflected in NSW data where among cases between 26 November 2021 and 8 January 2022, although the number of hospitalisations, admissions to ICU and deaths is greater among those who had received two effective doses than those with no effective dose, the percentage of cases with these outcomes is still much higher among those with no effective dose. Among cases aged 12 years and over with no effective dose in NSW, 8.9% of cases were hospitalised, 1.5% of cases were admitted to ICU, and 0.6% of cases died. In comparison, among cases who had received two effective doses, 1.0% of cases were hospitalised, 0.1% were admitted to ICU, and less than 0.1% died.
- The key message from experts and real world data remains that vaccination significantly reduces the risk of serious illness, and we continue to encourage anyone who is eligible to get vaccinated. The booster vaccination is particularly important in preventing serious health outcomes from the Omicron variant.

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
health.act.gov.au

Media line: 02 6205 9099

From: Rainbow, Jed <Jed.Rainbow@act.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 2 February 2022 3:22 PM
To: COVID-19 Media <COVID-19Media@act.gov.au>
Cc: Van Aalst, Sally <Sally.VanAalst@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Media inquiry: Vaccination statuses

Hi Alex

Waiting on some lines on palliative care from the CHO.

We don't want to say we can't get palliative care death information.

Cheers

Jed

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

From: COVID-19 Media <COVID-19Media@act.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 2 February 2022 2:34 PM
To: Rainbow, Jed <Jed.Rainbow@act.gov.au>
Cc: COVID-19 Media <COVID-19Media@act.gov.au>; Van Aalst, Sally <Sally.VanAalst@act.gov.au>
Subject: FW: Media inquiry: Vaccination statuses

OFFICIAL

Hi Jed,

I know there are a few conversations going on about the vaccination data response to [REDACTED] – do you have any updates from your end how it is tracking?

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

Media line: 02 6205 9099

From [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 2 February 2022 2:31 PM
To: COVID-19 Media <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.

Hey Alex,

Further to our conversation earlier, I would welcome a background briefing if there are difficulties in articulating the data.

Thanks,

[REDACTED]
Journalist
Australian Community Media

M [REDACTED]
W www.canberratimes.com.au

On Fri, Jan 28, 2022 at 5:22 PM COVID-19 Media <COVID-19Media@act.gov.au> wrote:

OFFICIAL

Hi [REDACTED]

Will have to be Monday morning for this one – apologies.

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

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 [REDACTED]
W www.canberratimes.com.au

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Lowes, Shannon (Health)

From: McGregor-Dainton, Amy
Sent: Thursday, 3 February 2022 5:00 PM
To: McConachie, Alex
Cc: Rainbow, Jed; Momber, Louise
Subject: Media inquiry: Vaccination statuses
Attachments: Media enquiry response.docx

Hi Alex, attached is the approved response from the Minister.

Cheers,
Amy

Amy McGregor-Dainton

Strategic Communications Adviser - Office of Minister Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA
ACT Legislative Assembly, 196 London Circuit, Canberra, ACT 2600
T: (02) 6205 7402 | M: [REDACTED] E: amy.mcgregor-dainton@act.gov.au

Deaths in 2022 from COVID-19

- From 1 Jan 2022, there have been 11 COVID-19 deaths recorded in the ACT - six of these were in residents of aged care facilities
- Seven of the 11 people who died with COVID-19 in 2022 were aged at least 80 – four were in their 80s and three were in their 90s. Of the remainder, one of the people who died was in their 40s, two were in their 50s and one was in their 60s.
- Six had received a primary course (two doses) of COVID-19 vaccine, of which 1 had received a booster dose. Two were partially vaccinated, two were unvaccinated, and one person had an unknown vaccination status.
- ACT Health does not routinely collect comorbidity data for COVID-19 positive cases for reporting purposes.
- Older age is a risk factor for severe disease and death, as are several underlying comorbidities.
- Commonwealth and NSW data reveals that approximately 80% of deaths due to COVID-19 are in those aged 70 years and over.

Hospital admissions in 2022 from COVID-19

- There were 22 ICU patients from 01/01/2022 to 30/01/2022:
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- Due to the relatively small number of deaths and ICU admission in the ACT, it is not possible to identify trends by vaccination status. However, with such a high vaccination rate in the ACT and with the current level of community transmission of COVID-19, we expect to see some severe illness and deaths from COVID-19 among vaccinated individuals.
- This is reflected in NSW data: for cases between 26 November 2021 and 8 January 2022, although the number of hospitalisations, admissions to ICU and deaths was greater among those who had received two effective doses than those with no effective dose, the percentage of cases with these outcomes was still much higher among those with no effective dose. Among cases aged 12 and over with no effective dose in NSW, 8.9% of cases were hospitalised, 1.5% of cases were admitted to ICU, and 0.6% of cases died. In comparison, among cases who had received two effective doses, 1.0% of cases were hospitalised, 0.1% were admitted to ICU, and less than 0.1% died.
- The key message from experts and real world data remains that vaccination significantly reduces the risk of serious illness, and we continue to encourage anyone who is eligible to get vaccinated. The booster vaccination is particularly important in preventing serious health outcomes from the Omicron variant.

Lowes, Shannon (Health)

From: Hundy, Rebecca (Health)
Sent: Thursday, 3 February 2022 5:36 PM
To: McConachie, Alex
Cc: Van Aalst, Sally; COVID-19 Media; Walker, Robyn (Health); Johnston, Vanessa (Health); Coleman, Kerryn (Health)
Subject: RE: FOR FACT CHECK: Vaccination data response edit from MO

UNOFFICIAL

Thanks Alex. I'm happy that the changes are accurate.

Thanks
 Rebecca.

From: McConachie, Alex <Alex.McConachie@act.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 3 February 2022 5:05 PM
To: Hundy, Rebecca (Health) <Rebecca.Hundy@act.gov.au>
Cc: Van Aalst, Sally <Sally.VanAalst@act.gov.au>; COVID-19 Media <COVID-19Media@act.gov.au>; Walker, Robyn (Health) <Robyn.Walker@act.gov.au>; Johnston, Vanessa (Health) <Vanessa.Johnston@act.gov.au>; Coleman, Kerryn (Health) <Kerryn.Coleman@act.gov.au>
Subject: FOR FACT CHECK: Vaccination data response edit from MO

Hi Bec,

As discussed, would appreciate a quick fact check on the edits from the Minister's Office. It's just the highlighted line where they have changed the framing to emphasise that we have had 7/11 deaths in people 80 or over. What they've added aligns with my records but just checking you are happy with this.

Everything else is unchanged (!)

- From 1 Jan 2022, there have been 11 COVID-19 deaths recorded in the ACT - six of these were in residents of aged care facilities.
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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
health.act.gov.au

Media line: 02 6205 9099

Lowes, Shannon (Health)

From: COVID-19 Media
Sent: Thursday, 3 February 2022 6:56 PM
To: [REDACTED] COVID-19 Media
Subject: RE: Media inquiry: Vaccination statuses

Hi [REDACTED]

Many thanks for your patience with this. I understand these delays have been frustrating, and this has taken longer than it should have. I can assure you though that at this point in time, we haven't provided this data to anyone else.

Attributable to an ACT Health spokesperson:

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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
health.act.gov.au

Media line: 02 6205 9099

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 2 February 2022 2:31 PM
To: COVID-19 Media <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.

Hey Alex,

Further to our conversation earlier, I would welcome a background briefing if there are difficulties in articulating the data.

Thanks,

[REDACTED]
Journalist
Australian Community Media
M [REDACTED]
W www.canberratimes.com.au

On Fri, Jan 28, 2022 at 5:22 PM COVID-19 Media <COVID-19Media@act.gov.au> wrote:

OFFICIAL

Hi [REDACTED]

Will have to be Monday morning for this one – apologies.

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

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,

[REDACTED]

Journalist
Australian Community Media

M [REDACTED]
W www.canberratimes.com.au

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Lowes, Shannon (Health)

From: Haider, Talib (Health)
Sent: Tuesday, 8 February 2022 6:45 PM
To: Walker, Robyn (Health); Hundy, Rebecca (Health); ACT Health Office of the Chief Health Officer
Cc: COVID-19 HECC Operations; Van Aalst, Sally
Subject: RE: Media enquiry - COVID-19 deaths

Thanks everyone,

MO is ok with the initial response; no additional context required.

Talib.

Talib Haider | Assistant Director, Media

Ph: [REDACTED] | Email: talib.haider@act.gov.au

Communication and Government Relations | ACT Health Directorate
 Level 5, 6 Bowes Street, Phillip ACT 2606

health.act.gov.au



I acknowledge the traditional custodians of the ACT, the Ngunnawal people.

I acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of this city and this region.

From: Walker, Robyn (Health) <Robyn.Walker@act.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 8 February 2022 5:35 PM
To: Hundy, Rebecca (Health) <Rebecca.Hundy@act.gov.au>; ACT Health Office of the Chief Health Officer <ACTHealthOCHO@act.gov.au>; Haider, Talib (Health) <Talib.Haider@act.gov.au>
Cc: COVID-19 HECC Operations <HECC.Operations@act.gov.au>; Van Aalst, Sally <Sally.VanAalst@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Media enquiry - COVID-19 deaths

All,

We have to be clear here because the dates that the data as pulled from are different.

Question

Has the ACT recorded Covid deaths in anyone triple vaccinated? If so, how many?

Response

Yes, there have been 3 deaths in people with COVID-19 who were known to be fully vaccinated including a booster dose as at 08 Feb 22.

This data was as at 03 Feb 22

- From 1 Jan 2022, there have been 11 COVID-19 deaths recorded in the ACT - six of these were in residents of aged care facilities.

- Seven of the 11 people who died with COVID-19 in 2022 were aged at least 80 – four were in their 80s and three were in their 90s. Of the remainder, one of the people who died was in their 40s, two were in their 50s and one was in their 60s.
- Six had received a primary course (two doses) of COVID-19 vaccine, of which 1 had received a booster dose. Two were partially vaccinated, two were unvaccinated, and one person had an unknown vaccination status.

This data has not been updated and the data team will have now left for the day. We can update this in the am if required.

Remaining generic response:

ACT Health does not routinely collect comorbidity data for COVID-19 positive cases for reporting purposes.

Older age is a risk factor for severe disease and death, as are several underlying comorbidities.

- Commonwealth and NSW data reveals that approximately 80% of deaths due to COVID-19 are in those aged 70 years and over.

Robyn

Robyn Walker | Executive Branch Manager Public Health Operations

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

COVID 19 Response ACT Health Directorate

Level 2, 2-6 Bowes Street Phillip ACT 2606

health.act.gov.au

From: Hundy, Rebecca (Health) <Rebecca.Hundy@act.gov.au>

Sent: Tuesday, 8 February 2022 5:15 PM

To: ACT Health Office of the Chief Health Officer <ACTHealthOCHO@act.gov.au>; Haider, Talib (Health) <Talib.Haider@act.gov.au>; Walker, Robyn (Health) <Robyn.Walker@act.gov.au>

Cc: COVID-19 HECC Operations <HECC.Operations@act.gov.au>; Van Aalst, Sally <Sally.VanAalst@act.gov.au>

Subject: RE: Media enquiry - COVID-19 deaths

Also just wanted to mentioned that the 3 deaths that have had boosters are from all reported deaths, not just since 1 Jan. The wording below would need to be amended (especially around timing of vaccination and eligibility).

Is the request related to the original one below, or a completely new request?

Thanks

Rebecca.

From: ACT Health Office of the Chief Health Officer <ACTHealthOCHO@act.gov.au>

Sent: Tuesday, 8 February 2022 5:05 PM

To: Haider, Talib (Health) <Talib.Haider@act.gov.au>; Walker, Robyn (Health) <Robyn.Walker@act.gov.au>

Cc: Hundy, Rebecca (Health) <Rebecca.Hundy@act.gov.au>; COVID-19 HECC Operations <HECC.Operations@act.gov.au>; Van Aalst, Sally <Sally.VanAalst@act.gov.au>

Subject: Re: Media enquiry - COVID-19 deaths

Thanks Talib. It's that last bit of wording that gives the context. That last few dot points.

Robyn - can you ok that to be used again for this request. I don't have all the background on this one.

From: Haider, Talib (Health) <Talib.Haider@act.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, February 8, 2022 4:33 PM
To: ACT Health Office of the Chief Health Officer
Cc: Hundy, Rebecca (Health); COVID-19 HECC Operations; Van Aalst, Sally
Subject: RE: Media enquiry - COVID-19 deaths

Thanks Laura,

Here is the response sent earlier to CT:

- From 1 Jan 2022, there have been 11 COVID-19 deaths recorded in the ACT - six of these were in residents of aged care facilities.
- Seven of the 11 people who died with COVID-19 in 2022 were aged at least 80 – four were in their 80s and three were in their 90s. Of the remainder, one of the people who died was in their 40s, two were in their 50s and one was in their 60s.
- Six had received a primary course (two doses) of COVID-19 vaccine, of which 1 had received a booster dose. Two were partially vaccinated, two were unvaccinated, and one person had an unknown vaccination status.

Need something similar for the 3 deaths with boosters.

Remaining generic response:

ACT Health does not routinely collect comorbidity data for COVID-19 positive cases for reporting purposes.

Older age is a risk factor for severe disease and death, as are several underlying comorbidities.

- Commonwealth and NSW data reveals that approximately 80% of deaths due to COVID-19 are in those aged 70 years and over.

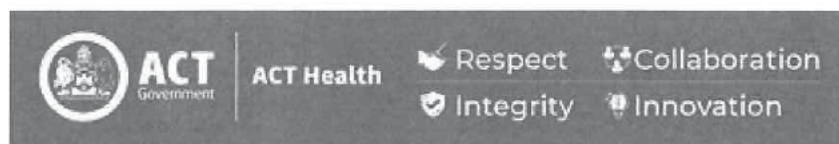
Talib Haider | Assistant Director, Media

Ph: [REDACTED] Email: talib.haider@act.gov.au

Communication and Government Relations | ACT Health Directorate

Level 5, 6 Bowes Street, Phillip ACT 2606

health.act.gov.au



I acknowledge the traditional custodians of the ACT, the Ngunnawal people.

I acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of this city and this region.

From: ACT Health Office of the Chief Health Officer <ACTHealthOCHO@act.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 8 February 2022 4:29 PM
To: Haider, Talib (Health) <Talib.Haider@act.gov.au>
Cc: Hundy, Rebecca (Health) <Rebecca.Hundy@act.gov.au>; COVID-19 HECC Operations <HECC.Operations@act.gov.au>; ACT Health Office of the Chief Health Officer <ACTHealthOCHO@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Media enquiry - COVID-19 deaths

Hi guys

Jumping in here.

Talib – can you use the wording for the response sent last week to CT. I can't find final version, but it had the approved wording for these types of requests

Laura McNeill | Director

Office of the Chief Health Officer

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

From: Haider, Talib (Health) <Talib.Haider@act.gov.au>

Sent: Tuesday, 8 February 2022 3:16 PM

To: Hundy, Rebecca (Health) <Rebecca.Hundy@act.gov.au>

Cc: COVID-19 Media <COVID-19Media@act.gov.au>; Van Aalst, Sally <Sally.VanAalst@act.gov.au>

Subject: FW: Media enquiry - COVID-19 deaths

Importance: High

Hi Rebecca,

Could we please get some details (are they provided for such a small number?) to build some context.

For example, were they all in Palliative care? Comorbidity / they were in vulnerable group.

The response was cleared earlier from OCHO but MO has requested context if possible.

Thanks,

Talib.

Deadline request – ASAP.

Question

Has the ACT recorded Covid deaths in anyone triple vaccinated? If so, how many?

Response

Yes, there have been 3 deaths in people with COVID-19 who were known to be fully vaccinated including a booster dose.

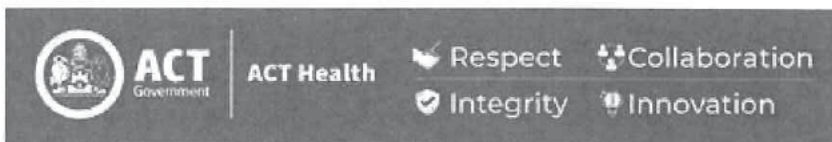
Talib Haider | Assistant Director, Media

Ph [REDACTED] Email: talib.haider@act.gov.au

Communication and Government Relations | ACT Health Directorate

Level 5, 6 Bowes Street, Phillip ACT 2606

health.act.gov.au



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I acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of this city and this region.

From: ACT Health Office of the Chief Health Officer <ACTHealthOCHO@act.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 8 February 2022 2:28 PM
To: Haider, Talib (Health) <Talib.Haider@act.gov.au>; ACT Health Office of the Chief Health Officer <ACTHealthOCHO@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: CLEARED - FW: Media enquiry - COVID-19 deaths

Yes, sorry. It is cleared

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

From: Haider, Talib (Health) <Talib.Haider@act.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 8 February 2022 2:26 PM
To: ACT Health Office of the Chief Health Officer <ACTHealthOCHO@act.gov.au>
Subject: FW: CLEARED - FW: Media enquiry - COVID-19 deaths

Hi OCHO,

Just double checking if below response was cleared.

Thanks,

Talib.

From: COVID-19 Media <COVID-19Media@act.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 8 February 2022 2:21 PM
To: Haider, Talib (Health) <Talib.Haider@act.gov.au>
Subject: FW: CLEARED - FW: Media enquiry - COVID-19 deaths

From: ACT Health Office of the Chief Health Officer <ACTHealthOCHO@act.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 8 February 2022 10:19 AM
To: COVID-19 Media <COVID-19Media@act.gov.au>
Subject: FW: CLEARED - FW: Media enquiry - COVID-19 deaths

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

From: Owen, Kimberly (Health) <Kimberly.Owen@act.gov.au> On Behalf Of COVID-19 HECC Operations
Sent: Tuesday, 8 February 2022 9:47 AM
To: ACT Health Office of the Chief Health Officer <ACTHealthOCHO@act.gov.au>
Subject: CLEARED - FW: Media enquiry - COVID-19 deaths

Hi team

This request was sent directly to Bec Hundy. See cleared response below. Providing back through correct channels.

Regards

Kimberly Owen, Acting Executive Officer/Business Manager, COVID-19 – Operations
 Ph: 02 5124 6244 | Email: kimberly.owen@act.gov.au | HECC.Operations@act.gov.au
 Executive Support Office | Operations
 COVID-19 Response | ACT Health Directorate
 Level 3, 2-6 Bowes Street Phillip ACT 2606
health.act.gov.au



From: Walker, Robyn (Health) <Robyn.Walker@act.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 8 February 2022 9:45 AM
To: COVID-19 HECC Operations <HECC.Operations@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: FOR CLEARANCE - FW: Media enquiry - COVID-19 deaths

Kimberley

Cleared response:

Question

Has the ACT recorded Covid deaths in anyone triple vaccinated? If so, how many?

Response

There has been 3 deaths in people with COVID-19 in the ACT who were known to be fully vaccinated including a booster dose.

Robyn

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

From: Owen, Kimberly (Health) <Kimberly.Owen@act.gov.au> **On Behalf Of** COVID-19 HECC Operations
Sent: Tuesday, 8 February 2022 9:08 AM
To: Walker, Robyn (Health) <Robyn.Walker@act.gov.au>
Subject: FOR CLEARANCE - FW: Media enquiry - COVID-19 deaths

Media for clearance – response provided by Rebecca Hundy.

Question

Has the ACT recorded Covid deaths in anyone triple vaccinated? If so, how many?

Response

Yes, there have been 3 deaths in people with COVID-19 who were known to be fully vaccinated including a booster dose.

Kimberly Owen, Acting Executive Officer/Business Manager, COVID-19 – Operations
 Ph: 02 5124 6244 | Email: kimberly.owen@act.gov.au | HECC.Operations@act.gov.au
 Executive Support Office | Operations
 COVID-19 Response | ACT Health Directorate
 Level 3, 2-6 Bowes Street Phillip ACT 2606
health.act.gov.au



From: Hundy, Rebecca (Health) <Rebecca.Hundy@act.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 7 February 2022 5:02 PM
To: COVID-19 HECC Operations <HECC.Operations@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Media enquiry - COVID-19 deaths

Hi Kimberly

Please see a media request that has come direct to me.

The answer to the question is -

Yes, there have been 3 deaths in people with COVID-19 who were known to be fully vaccinated including a booster dose.

This will need to be cleared through usual processes.

Thanks
 Rebecca.

From: Haider, Talib (Health) <Talib.Haider@act.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 7 February 2022 4:31 PM
To: Hundy, Rebecca (Health) <Rebecca.Hundy@act.gov.au>
Subject: Media enquiry - COVID-19 deaths

Hi Bec,

Thanks for taking the call.

As discussed, here is the media enquiry:

Has the ACT recorded Covid deaths in anyone triple vaccinated? If so, how many?

Regards,

Talib.

Talib Haider | Assistant Director, Media
 Ph: [REDACTED] | Email: talib.haider@act.gov.au

Communication and Government Relations | ACT Health Directorate
Level 5, 6 Bowes Street, Phillip ACT 2606
health.act.gov.au



I acknowledge the traditional custodians of the ACT, the Ngunnawal people.

I acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of this city and this region.

Lowes, Shannon (Health)

From: COVID-19 Media
Sent: Friday, 18 February 2022 10:24 AM
To: ACT Health Office of the Chief Health Officer; COVID-19 HECC Operations
Cc: COVID-19 Media
Subject: RE: Aged care deaths - Media inquiry: Vaccination statuses

OFFICIAL

Hi all – any updates on how this one is progressing?

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
health.act.gov.au

Media line: 02 6205 9099

From: ACT Health Office of the Chief Health Officer <ACTHealthOCHO@act.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 17 February 2022 10:10 AM
To: COVID-19 HECC Operations <HECC.Operations@act.gov.au>
Cc: ACT Health Office of the Chief Health Officer <ACTHealthOCHO@act.gov.au>; COVID-19 Media <COVID-19Media@act.gov.au>
Subject: FW: Aged care deaths - Media inquiry: Vaccination statuses

For updating please.

Robyn can clear this one once done 😊

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

From: McConachie, Alex <Alex.McConachie@act.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 17 February 2022 10:08 AM
To: ACT Health Office of the Chief Health Officer <ACTHealthOCHO@act.gov.au>
Cc: COVID-19 Media <COVID-19Media@act.gov.au>
Subject: FW: Aged care deaths - Media inquiry: Vaccination statuses

OFFICIAL

Hi Laura,

Could we get ops to update the highlighted lines below (have had a q on this issue this morning) – I think we have reported a further 5 deaths since we pulled the response together initially.

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
health.act.gov.au

Media line: 02 6205 9099

From: Rainbow, Jed <Jed.Rainbow@act.gov.au>
 Sent: Thursday, 17 February 2022 10:04 AM
 To: McConachie, Alex <Alex.McConachie@act.gov.au>
 Cc: Van Aalst, Sally <Sally.VanAalst@act.gov.au>
 Subject: FW: Aged care deaths - Media inquiry: Vaccination statuses

Hey Alex

Found this email from a couple of weeks ago – could we confirm the deaths in aged care figures are still accurate?

Cheers

Jed

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

From: COVID-19 Media <COVID-19Media@act.gov.au>
 Sent: Thursday, 3 February 2022 3:32 PM
 To: Rainbow, Jed <Jed.Rainbow@act.gov.au>; COVID-19 Media <COVID-19Media@act.gov.au>
 Cc: Van Aalst, Sally <Sally.VanAalst@act.gov.au>
 Subject: RE: Media inquiry: Vaccination statuses

OFFICIAL

Hi Jed,

Please see below revised response for the Minister's review. I understand CHO has communicated ACT Health's advice/concerns in relation to specifically discussing palliative care to the Minister, but please let me know if you need any further context.

Deaths in 2022 from COVID-19

- From 1 Jan 2022, there have been 11 deaths from COVID-19 in the ACT - six of these were in residents of aged care facilities.
- Seven of the people who died with COVID in 2022 were aged over 65, including four who were aged in their 80s and three in their 90s.
- Six had received a primary course (two doses) of COVID-19 vaccine, of which 1 had received a booster dose. Two were partially vaccinated, two were unvaccinated, and one person had an unknown vaccination status.
- ACT Health does not routinely collect comorbidity data for COVID-19 positive cases for reporting purposes.
- Older age is a risk factor for severe disease and death, as are several underlying comorbidities.
 - Commonwealth and NSW data reveals that approximately 80% of deaths due to COVID-19 are in those aged 70 years and over.

Hospital admissions in 2022 from COVID-19

- There were 22 ICU patients from 01/01/2022 to 30/01/2022:
 - 15 fully vaccinated, including 3 who had received a booster dose
 - 7 unvaccinated
- Due to the relatively small number of deaths and ICU admission in the ACT, it is not possible to identify trends by vaccination status. However, with such a high vaccination rate in the ACT and with the current level of community transmission of COVID-19, we expect to see some severe illness and deaths from COVID-19 among vaccinated individuals.
- This is reflected in NSW data: for cases between 26 November 2021 and 8 January 2022, although the number of hospitalisations, admissions to ICU and deaths was greater among those who had received two effective doses than those with no effective dose, the percentage of cases with these outcomes was still much higher among those with no effective dose. Among cases aged 12 and over with no effective dose in NSW, 8.9% of cases were hospitalised, 1.5% of cases were admitted to ICU, and 0.6% of cases died. In comparison, among cases who had received two effective doses, 1.0% of cases were hospitalised, 0.1% were admitted to ICU, and less than 0.1% died.
- The key message from experts and real world data remains that vaccination significantly reduces the risk of serious illness, and we continue to encourage anyone who is eligible to get vaccinated. The booster vaccination is particularly important in preventing serious health outcomes from the Omicron variant.

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
health.act.gov.au

Media line: 02 6205 9099

From: Rainbow, Jed <Jed.Rainbow@act.gov.au>
 Sent: Wednesday, 2 February 2022 3:22 PM
 To: COVID-19 Media <COVID-19Media@act.gov.au>
 Cc: Van Aalst, Sally <Sally.VanAalst@act.gov.au>
 Subject: RE: Media inquiry: Vaccination statuses

Hi Alex

Waiting on some lines on palliative care from the CHO.

We don't want to say we can't get palliative care death information.

Cheers

Jed

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

From: COVID-19 Media <COVID-19Media@act.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 2 February 2022 2:34 PM
To: Rainbow, Jed <Jed.Rainbow@act.gov.au>
Cc: COVID-19 Media <COVID-19Media@act.gov.au>; Van Aalst, Sally <Sally.VanAalst@act.gov.au>
Subject: FW: Media inquiry: Vaccination statuses

OFFICIAL

Hi Jed,

I know there are a few conversations going on about the vaccination data response to [REDACTED] - do you have any updates from your end how it is tracking?

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
health.act.gov.au

Media line: 02 6205 9099

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 2 February 2022 2:31 PM
To: COVID-19 Media <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.

Hey Alex,

Further to our conversation earlier, I would welcome a background briefing if there are difficulties in articulating the data.

Thanks,

[REDACTED]
 Journalist
 Australian Community Media

M [REDACTED]
 W www.canberratimes.com.au

On Fri, Jan 28, 2022 at 5:22 PM COVID-19 Media <COVID-19Media@act.gov.au> wrote:

OFFICIAL

Hi [REDACTED]

Will have to be Monday morning for this one – apologies.

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
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,

[REDACTED]

Journalist
Australian Community Media

M [REDACTED]
W www.canberratimes.com.au

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Lowes, Shannon (Health)

From: Keene, Toby (Health)
Sent: Friday, 18 February 2022 12:43 PM
To: Swanston, Heather (Health)
Cc: Hundy, Rebecca (Health); Cummings, Shane (Health)
Subject: RE: URGENT -- NO, ACTUALLY URGENT Death numbers

OFFICIAL

Thank you, all. Will pass onto media.

Toby Keene | Senior Director, Case Management & Outbreak Response

Ph: [REDACTED] Email: toby.keene@act.gov.au | hecc.operations@act.gov.au

COVID-19 Response | ACT Health Directorate

Level 3, 2-6 Bowes Street Phillip ACT 2606

Note, I work rostered shifts. If your matter is urgent, please call **(02) 5124 9225** for the duty operations team.



From: Swanston, Heather (Health) <Heather.Swanston@act.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 18 February 2022 12:40 PM
To: Keene, Toby (Health) <Toby.Keene@act.gov.au>
Cc: Hundy, Rebecca (Health) <Rebecca.Hundy@act.gov.au>; Cummings, Shane (Health) <Shane.Cummings@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: URGENT -- NO, ACTUALLY URGENT Death numbers

OFFICIAL

Toby

We just conferred. Yes, Bec and I agree **17 deaths, 12 over 65 years.**

Bec identified one more person in aged care so **10 in RACFs.**

- **12** of the people who died with COVID in 2022 were aged over 65, including **four** who were aged in their 80s and **six** in their 90s.

(We had a rounding error of 0.1 years using date of death to calculate age c.f. date of notification. We will use date of notification from now on. This meant one person aged 89.9 went from 90s to 80s group.)

Heather

Heather Swanston, PhD | Director | Surveillance and Reporting | COVID-19 Response

Ph: 02 5124 6219 | Email: 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



From: Swanston, Heather (Health)

Sent: Friday, 18 February 2022 12:01 PM

To: Keene, Toby (Health) <Toby.Keene@act.gov.au>

Cc: Hundy, Rebecca (Health) <Rebecca.Hundy@act.gov.au>; Cummings, Shane (Health) <Shane.Cummings@act.gov.au>

Subject: RE: URGENT -- NO, ACTUALLY URGENT Death numbers

Importance: High

OFFICIAL

Toby

I have spoken with Bec about this. She agrees that we should be avoiding giving too much detail about deceased persons anyway to preserve confidentiality.

We suggest the following:

Deaths in 2022 from COVID-19

- From 1 Jan 2022, there have been **17** deaths from COVID-19 in the ACT.
- **12** of the people who died with COVID in 2022 were aged over 65.

I would also suggest not stating 9 of these were reported among residents of aged care facilities since our records do not clearly or consistently identify RACFs. Dani and I agree that we were able to readily identify these 9, but we also agree that there may be more. Bec is of course aware and is already working on a solution going forward with respect to coding location.

Heather

Heather Swanston, PhD | Director | Surveillance and Reporting | COVID-19 Response

Ph: 02 5124 6219 | Email: 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



From: Keene, Toby (Health) <Toby.Keene@act.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 18 February 2022 11:41 AM
To: Hundy, Rebecca (Health) <Rebecca.Hundy@act.gov.au>; Swanston, Heather (Health) <Heather.Swanston@act.gov.au>
Subject: URGENT -- NO, ACTUALLY URGENT Death numbers

OFFICIAL

Can you please URGENTLY confirm the correctness of these numbers for release to media / Minister.

Toby

Toby Keene | Senior Director, Case Management & Outbreak Response
 Ph: [REDACTED] Email: toby.keene@act.gov.au | hecc.operations@act.gov.au
COVID-19 Response | ACT Health Directorate
 Level 3, 2-6 Bowes Street Phillip ACT 2606

Note, I work rostered shifts. If your matter is urgent, please call (02) 5124 9225 for the duty operations team.



From: McConachie, Alex <Alex.McConachie@act.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 18 February 2022 11:37 AM
To: Keene, Toby (Health) <Toby.Keene@act.gov.au>
Subject: Death numbers

OFFICIAL

Total deaths since 1 Feb – 6

20s - 1
 60s – 1 (69yo)
 70s - 1
 90s - 3

So by my working adding these to the total for January:

- From 1 Jan 2022, there have been 17 deaths from COVID-19 in the ACT - nine of these were reported among residents of aged care facilities.
- 12 of the people who died with COVID in 2022 were aged over 65, including four who were aged in their 80s and six in their 90s.

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
health.act.gov.au

Media line: 02 6205 9099

Lowes, Shannon (Health)

From: ACT Health Office of the Chief Health Officer
Sent: Friday, 18 February 2022 1:04 PM
To: COVID-19 Media
Cc: ACT Health Office of the Chief Health Officer
Subject: FW: APPROVED -FW: Aged care deaths - Media inquiry: Vaccination statuses

OFFICIAL

Good Afternoon Alex,
 Cleared by HECC Ops/Toby Keene.
 Thanks,
 Tracey

From: Owen, Kimberly (Health) <Kimberly.Owen@act.gov.au> **On Behalf Of** COVID-19 HECC Operations
Sent: 18 February 2022 1:00 PM
To: ACT Health Office of the Chief Health Officer <ACTHealthOCHO@act.gov.au>
Cc: COVID-19 Media <COVID-19Media@act.gov.au>
Subject: APPROVED -FW: Aged care deaths - Media inquiry: Vaccination statuses

Tracey

To progress to Media.

Kimberly

From: Keene, Toby (Health) <Toby.Keene@act.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 18 February 2022 12:53 PM
To: COVID-19 HECC Operations <HECC.Operations@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: FOR ACTION/APPROVAL -FW: Aged care deaths - Media inquiry: Vaccination statuses

OFFICIAL

Kimberly

The teams have verified the numbers below since 1 January 2022:

- **17 deaths**
- **12 people over 65 years: four** who were aged in their 80s and **six** in their 90s
- **10 people** were residents of aged care facilities

These can be released to Media.

Toby

Toby Keene | Senior Director, Case Management & Outbreak Response
 Ph [REDACTED] Email: toby.keene@act.gov.au | hecc.operations@act.gov.au
COVID-19 Response | ACT Health Directorate
 Level 3, 2-6 Bowes Street Phillip ACT 2606

Note, I work rostered shifts. If your matter is urgent, please call (02) 5124 9225 for the duty operations team.



From: Owen, Kimberly (Health) <Kimberly.Owen@act.gov.au> **On Behalf Of** COVID-19 HECC Operations
Sent: Friday, 18 February 2022 11:34 AM
To: Keene, Toby (Health) <Toby.Keene@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: FOR ACTION/APPROVAL -FW: Aged care deaths - Media inquiry: Vaccination statuses

Thanks.

Kimberly Owen, Acting Executive Officer/Business Manager, COVID-19 – Operations
 Ph: 02 5124 6244 | Email: kimberly.owen@act.gov.au | HECC.Operations@act.gov.au
 Executive Support Office | Operations
 COVID-19 Response | ACT Health Directorate
 Level 3, 2-6 Bowes Street Phillip ACT 2606
health.act.gov.au



From: Keene, Toby (Health) <Toby.Keene@act.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 18 February 2022 11:29 AM
To: COVID-19 HECC Operations <HECC.Operations@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: FOR ACTION/APPROVAL -FW: Aged care deaths - Media inquiry: Vaccination statuses

OFFICIAL

Kimberly

Just discussing this with Alex and a few others – trying to resolve the numbers discrepancy below.

Will advise ASAP.

Toby

Toby Keene | Senior Director, Case Management & Outbreak Response
 Ph: [REDACTED] | Email: toby.keene@act.gov.au | hecc.operations@act.gov.au
 COVID-19 Response | ACT Health Directorate
 Level 3, 2-6 Bowes Street Phillip ACT 2606

Note, I work rostered shifts. If your matter is urgent, please call (02) 5124 9225 for the duty operations team.



From: Owen, Kimberly (Health) <Kimberly.Owen@act.gov.au> **On Behalf Of** COVID-19 HECC Operations
Sent: Friday, 18 February 2022 10:58 AM
To: Keene, Toby (Health) <Toby.Keene@act.gov.au>
Cc: COVID-19 HECC Operations <HECC.Operations@act.gov.au>
Subject: FOR ACTION/APPROVAL -FW: Aged care deaths - Media inquiry: Vaccination statuses

Hi Toby

This is the second media enquiry being chased this morning from yesterday.

With Robyn on leave can you clear or respond to the advice provided by Data to enable a response to progress?

Cheers

Kimberly Owen, Acting Executive Officer/Business Manager, COVID-19 – Operations
 Ph: 02 5124 6244 | Email: kimberly.owen@act.gov.au | HECC.Operations@act.gov.au
 Executive Support Office | Operations
 COVID-19 Response | ACT Health Directorate
 Level 3, 2-6 Bowes Street Phillip ACT 2606
health.act.gov.au



From: Swanston, Heather (Health) <Heather.Swanston@act.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 17 February 2022 6:12 PM
To: Walker, Robyn (Health) <Robyn.Walker@act.gov.au>
Cc: Cummings, Shane (Health) <Shane.Cummings@act.gov.au>; COVID-19 HECC Data <COVID19HECCData@act.gov.au>; COVID-19 HECC Operations <HECC.Operations@act.gov.au>; Owen, Kimberly (Health) <Kimberly.Owen@act.gov.au>; Briones, Danielle (Health) <Danielle.Briones@act.gov.au>; Keene, Toby (Health) <Toby.Keene@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: For Action -FW: Aged care deaths - Media inquiry: Vaccination statuses

OFFICIAL

Robyn

We stand by the numbers provided at 16:32h below. In response to the original request, my team only provided the vaccination status on these individuals – we did not provide ages (please refer attached email).

Heather

Heather Swanston, PhD | Director | Surveillance and Reporting | COVID-19 Response

Ph: [REDACTED] Email: 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



From: Walker, Robyn (Health) <Robyn.Walker@act.gov.au>

Sent: Thursday, 17 February 2022 5:22 PM

To: Swanston, Heather (Health) <Heather.Swanston@act.gov.au>

Cc: Cummings, Shane (Health) <Shane.Cummings@act.gov.au>; COVID-19 HECC Data <COVID19HECCData@act.gov.au>; COVID-19 HECC Operations <HECC.Operations@act.gov.au>; Owen, Kimberly (Health) <Kimberly.Owen@act.gov.au>; Briones, Danielle (Health) <Danielle.Briones@act.gov.au>; Keene, Toby (Health) <Toby.Keene@act.gov.au>

Subject: RE: For Action -FW: Aged care deaths - Media inquiry: Vaccination statuses

OFFICIAL

Shane and Heather

This is inconsistent.

One report saying 4 who died were in the 80s can not at a later time state that other were only 3 in the same time period..

I cannot clear this unless someone explains.

Robyn

Robyn Walker | Executive Branch Manager Public Health Operations

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

COVID 19 Response ACT Health Directorate

Level 2, 2-6 Bowes Street Phillip ACT 2606

health.act.gov.au

From: Swanston, Heather (Health) <Heather.Swanston@act.gov.au>

Sent: Thursday, 17 February 2022 4:32 PM

To: Walker, Robyn (Health) <Robyn.Walker@act.gov.au>

Cc: Cummings, Shane (Health) <Shane.Cummings@act.gov.au>; COVID-19 HECC Data <COVID19HECCData@act.gov.au>; COVID-19 HECC Operations <HECC.Operations@act.gov.au>; Owen, Kimberly (Health) <Kimberly.Owen@act.gov.au>; Briones, Danielle (Health) <Danielle.Briones@act.gov.au>

Subject: RE: For Action -FW: Aged care deaths - Media inquiry: Vaccination statuses

Importance: High

OFFICIAL

Robyn

For clearance, please.

Deaths in 2022 from COVID-19

- From 1 Jan 2022, there have been **17** deaths from COVID-19 in the ACT - **9** of these were reported among residents of aged care facilities.
- **12** of the people who died with COVID in 2022 were aged over 65, including **three** who were aged in their 80s and **seven** in their 90s.

Note: we have worded the first bullet point very carefully. As far as we know, this is 9 cases but we are not always advised of whether the person was a resident of an aged care facility.

@Briones, Danielle (Health) I concur - we also have 9 identifiable in our data set.

We double checked the data and we observe that the last report referred to 4 people in their 80s. There were indeed 3 people to date since 1 January – difference is owing to different timeframes.

Heather

Heather Swanston, PhD | Director | Surveillance and Reporting | COVID-19 Response

Ph: 02 5124 6219 | Email: 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



From: Owen, Kimberly (Health) <Kimberly.Owen@act.gov.au> **On Behalf Of** COVID-19 HECC Operations

Sent: Thursday, 17 February 2022 12:46 PM

To: COVID-19 HECC Data <COVID19HECCData@act.gov.au>

Cc: Cummings, Shane (Health) <Shane.Cummings@act.gov.au>; Swanston, Heather (Health) <Heather.Swanston@act.gov.au>

Subject: For Action -FW: Aged care deaths - Media inquiry: Vaccination statuses

Hi Team

See highlighted text below for updating.

Regards

Kimberly Owen, Acting Executive Officer/Business Manager, COVID-19 – Operations

Ph: 02 5124 6244 | Email: kimberly.owen@act.gov.au | HECC.Operations@act.gov.au

Executive Support Office | Operations

COVID-19 Response | ACT Health Directorate

Level 3, 2-6 Bowes Street Phillip ACT 2606

health.act.gov.au



From: Briones, Danielle (Health) <Danielle.Briones@act.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 17 February 2022 12:37 PM
To: COVID-19 HECC Operations <HECC.Operations@act.gov.au>; ACT Health COVID-19 Site Liaison <SiteLO.Covid@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: For Action -FW: Aged care deaths - Media inquiry: Vaccination statuses

OFFICIAL

Hello Kimberly,

Can this please be re-directed this to the Data and Reporting team to check what is on the database?

Kind regards,
 Dani

From: Owen, Kimberly (Health) <Kimberly.Owen@act.gov.au> **On Behalf Of** COVID-19 HECC Operations
Sent: Thursday, 17 February 2022 10:14 AM
To: ACT Health COVID-19 Site Liaison <SiteLO.Covid@act.gov.au>
Cc: Briones, Danielle (Health) <Danielle.Briones@act.gov.au>
Subject: For Action -FW: Aged care deaths - Media inquiry: Vaccination statuses

Hi Dani

Update for highlighted sections below please.

Deaths in 2022 from COVID-19

- From 1 Jan 2022, there have been 11 deaths from COVID-19 in the ACT - six of these were in residents of aged care facilities.
- Seven of the people who died with COVID in 2022 were aged over 65, including four who were aged in their 80s and three in their 90s.

If not your team please advise if redirection required.

Regards

Kimberly Owen, Acting Executive Officer/Business Manager, COVID-19 – Operations
 Ph: 02 5124 6244 | Email: kimberly.owen@act.gov.au | HECC.Operations@act.gov.au
Executive Support Office | Operations
COVID-19 Response | ACT Health Directorate
 Level 3, 2-6 Bowes Street Phillip ACT 2606
health.act.gov.au



From: ACT Health Office of the Chief Health Officer <ACTHealthOCHO@act.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 17 February 2022 10:10 AM
To: COVID-19 HECC Operations <HECC.Operations@act.gov.au>

Cc: ACT Health Office of the Chief Health Officer <ACTHealthOCHO@act.gov.au>; COVID-19 Media <COVID-19Media@act.gov.au>

Subject: FW: Aged care deaths - Media inquiry: Vaccination statuses

For updating please.

Robyn can clear this one once done 😊

Laura McNeill | Director

Office of the Chief Health Officer

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

From: McConachie, Alex <Alex.McConachie@act.gov.au>

Sent: Thursday, 17 February 2022 10:08 AM

To: ACT Health Office of the Chief Health Officer <ACTHealthOCHO@act.gov.au>

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

Subject: FW: Aged care deaths - Media inquiry: Vaccination statuses

OFFICIAL

Hi Laura,

Could we get ops to update the highlighted lines below (have had a q on this issue this morning) – I think we have reported a further 5 deaths since we pulled the response together initially.

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

health.act.gov.au

Media line: 02 6205 9099

From: Rainbow, Jed <Jed.Rainbow@act.gov.au>

Sent: Thursday, 17 February 2022 10:04 AM

To: McConachie, Alex <Alex.McConachie@act.gov.au>

Cc: Van Aalst, Sally <Sally.VanAalst@act.gov.au>

Subject: FW: Aged care deaths - Media inquiry: Vaccination statuses

Hey Alex

Found this email from a couple of weeks ago – could we confirm the deaths in aged care figures are still accurate?

Cheers

Jed

Jed Rainbow | Media Adviser

ACT Government Communications Unit

Phone: 02 6207 7799 | Mobile: [REDACTED] | Email: jed.rainbow@act.gov.au

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

Sent: Thursday, 3 February 2022 3:32 PM

To: Rainbow, Jed <Jed.Rainbow@act.gov.au>; COVID-19 Media <COVID-19Media@act.gov.au>

Cc: Van Aalst, Sally <Sally.VanAalst@act.gov.au>
 Subject: RE: Media inquiry: Vaccination statuses

OFFICIAL

Hi Jed,

Please see below revised response for the Minister's review. I understand CHO has communicated ACT Health's advice/concerns in relation to specifically discussing palliative care to the Minister, but please let me know if you need any further context.

Deaths in 2022 from COVID-19

- From 1 Jan 2022, there have been 11 deaths from COVID-19 in the ACT - six of these were in residents of aged care facilities.
- Seven of the people who died with COVID in 2022 were aged over 65, including four who were aged in their 80s and three in their 90s.
- Six had received a primary course (two doses) of COVID-19 vaccine, of which 1 had received a booster dose. Two were partially vaccinated, two were unvaccinated, and one person had an unknown vaccination status.
- ACT Health does not routinely collect comorbidity data for COVID-19 positive cases for reporting purposes.
- Older age is a risk factor for severe disease and death, as are several underlying comorbidities.
 - Commonwealth and NSW data reveals that approximately 80% of deaths due to COVID-19 are in those aged 70 years and over.

Hospital admissions in 2022 from COVID-19

- There were 22 ICU patients from 01/01/2022 to 30/01/2022:
 - 15 fully vaccinated, including 3 who had received a booster dose
 - 7 unvaccinated
- Due to the relatively small number of deaths and ICU admission in the ACT, it is not possible to identify trends by vaccination status. However, with such a high vaccination rate in the ACT and with the current level of community transmission of COVID-19, we expect to see some severe illness and deaths from COVID-19 among vaccinated individuals.
- This is reflected in NSW data: for cases between 26 November 2021 and 8 January 2022, although the number of hospitalisations, admissions to ICU and deaths was greater among those who had received two effective doses than those with no effective dose, the percentage of cases with these outcomes was still much higher among those with no effective dose. Among cases aged 12 and over with no effective dose in NSW, 8.9% of cases were hospitalised, 1.5% of cases were admitted to ICU, and 0.6% of cases died. In comparison, among cases who had received two effective doses, 1.0% of cases were hospitalised, 0.1% were admitted to ICU, and less than 0.1% died.
- The key message from experts and real world data remains that vaccination significantly reduces the risk of serious illness, and we continue to encourage anyone who is eligible to get vaccinated. The booster vaccination is particularly important in preventing serious health outcomes from the Omicron variant.

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
health.act.gov.au

Media line: 02 6205 9099

From: Rainbow, Jed <Jed.Rainbow@act.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 2 February 2022 3:22 PM
To: COVID-19 Media <COVID-19Media@act.gov.au>
Cc: Van Aalst, Sally <Sally.VanAalst@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Media inquiry: Vaccination statuses

Hi Alex

Waiting on some lines on palliative care from the CHO.

We don't want to say we can't get palliative care death information.

Cheers

Jed

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

From: COVID-19 Media <COVID-19Media@act.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 2 February 2022 2:34 PM
To: Rainbow, Jed <Jed.Rainbow@act.gov.au>
Cc: COVID-19 Media <COVID-19Media@act.gov.au>; Van Aalst, Sally <Sally.VanAalst@act.gov.au>
Subject: FW: Media inquiry: Vaccination statuses

OFFICIAL

Hi Jed,

I know there are a few conversations going on about the vaccination data response to [REDACTED] - do you have any updates from your end how it is tracking?

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
health.act.gov.au

Media line: 02 6205 9099

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 2 February 2022 2:31 PM
To: COVID-19 Media <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.

Hey Alex,

Further to our conversation earlier, I would welcome a background briefing if there are difficulties in articulating the data.

Thanks,

Journalist
Australian Community Media

M [REDACTED]
W www.canberratimes.com.au

On Fri, Jan 28, 2022 at 5:22 PM COVID-19 Media <COVID-19Media@act.gov.au> wrote:

OFFICIAL

Hi [REDACTED]

Will have to be Monday morning for this one – apologies.

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
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

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Lowes, Shannon (Health)

From: Hundy, Rebecca (Health)
Sent: Friday, 18 February 2022 1:28 PM
To: Keene, Toby (Health); Swanston, Heather (Health)
Cc: Cummings, Shane (Health)
Subject: RE: URGENT -- NO, ACTUALLY URGENT Death numbers

OFFICIAL

As discussed, yes, since 1 Jan 22.

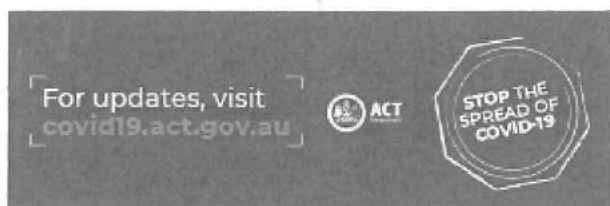
From: Keene, Toby (Health) <Toby.Keene@act.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 18 February 2022 12:45 PM
To: Swanston, Heather (Health) <Heather.Swanston@act.gov.au>
Cc: Hundy, Rebecca (Health) <Rebecca.Hundy@act.gov.au>; Cummings, Shane (Health) <Shane.Cummings@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: URGENT -- NO, ACTUALLY URGENT Death numbers

OFFICIAL

Just confirming – these are since 1 Jan 22?

Toby Keene | Senior Director, Case Management & Outbreak Response
 Ph: [REDACTED] Email: toby.keene@act.gov.au | hecc.operations@act.gov.au
COVID-19 Response | ACT Health Directorate
 Level 3, 2-6 Bowes Street Phillip ACT 2606

Note, I work rostered shifts. If your matter is urgent, please call (02) 5124 9225 for the duty operations team.



From: Swanston, Heather (Health) <Heather.Swanston@act.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 18 February 2022 12:40 PM
To: Keene, Toby (Health) <Toby.Keene@act.gov.au>
Cc: Hundy, Rebecca (Health) <Rebecca.Hundy@act.gov.au>; Cummings, Shane (Health) <Shane.Cummings@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: URGENT -- NO, ACTUALLY URGENT Death numbers

OFFICIAL

Toby

We just conferred. Yes, Bec and I agree **17 deaths, 12 over 65 years.**

Bec identified one more person in aged care so **10 in RACFs.**

- 12 of the people who died with COVID in 2022 were aged over 65, including four who were aged in their 80s and six in their 90s.

(We had a rounding error of 0.1 years using date of death to calculate age c.f. date of notification. We will use date of notification from now on. This meant one person aged 89.9 went from 90s to 80s group.)

Heather

Heather Swanston, PhD | Director | Surveillance and Reporting | COVID-19 Response

Ph: 02 5124 6219 | Email: 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



From: Swanston, Heather (Health)

Sent: Friday, 18 February 2022 12:01 PM

To: Keene, Toby (Health) <Toby.Keene@act.gov.au>

Cc: Hundy, Rebecca (Health) <Rebecca.Hundy@act.gov.au>; Cummings, Shane (Health) <Shane.Cummings@act.gov.au>

Subject: RE: URGENT -- NO, ACTUALLY URGENT Death numbers

Importance: High

OFFICIAL

Toby

I have spoken with Bec about this. She agrees that we should be avoiding giving too much detail about deceased persons anyway to preserve confidentiality.

We suggest the following:

Deaths in 2022 from COVID-19

- From 1 Jan 2022, there have been 17 deaths from COVID-19 in the ACT.
- 12 of the people who died with COVID in 2022 were aged over 65.

I would also suggest not stating 9 of these were reported among residents of aged care facilities since our records do not clearly or consistently identify RACFs. Dani and I agree that we were able to readily identify these 9, but we also agree that there may be more. Bec is of course aware and is already working on a solution going forward with respect to coding location.

Heather

Heather Swanston, PhD | Director | Surveillance and Reporting | COVID-19 Response

Ph: 02 5124 6219 | Email: Heather.Swanston@act.gov.au

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From: Keene, Toby (Health) <Toby.Keene@act.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 18 February 2022 11:41 AM
To: Hundy, Rebecca (Health) <Rebecca.Hundy@act.gov.au>; Swanston, Heather (Health) <Heather.Swanston@act.gov.au>
Subject: URGENT -- NO, ACTUALLY URGENT Death numbers

OFFICIAL

Can you please URGENTLY confirm the correctness of these numbers for release to media / Minister.

Toby

Toby Keene | Senior Director, Case Management & Outbreak Response
 Ph: [REDACTED] Email: toby.keene@act.gov.au | hecc.operations@act.gov.au
COVID-19 Response | ACT Health Directorate
 Level 3, 2-6 Bowes Street Phillip ACT 2606

Note, I work rostered shifts. If your matter is urgent, please call (02) 5124 9225 for the duty operations team.



From: McConachie, Alex <Alex.McConachie@act.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 18 February 2022 11:37 AM
To: Keene, Toby (Health) <Toby.Keene@act.gov.au>
Subject: Death numbers

OFFICIAL

Total deaths since 1 Feb – 6

20s - 1
 60s – 1 (69yo)
 70s - 1
 90s - 3

So by my working adding these to the total for January:

- From 1 Jan 2022, there have been **17** deaths from COVID-19 in the ACT - **nine** of these were reported among residents of aged care facilities.
- **12** of the people who died with COVID in 2022 were aged over 65, including **four** who were aged in their 80s and **six** in their 90s.

Alex McConachie | Director, Media and Communications

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