

### Weekly media and issues update

For the week ending: 21 February 2020

PHARMAC Senior Leadership Team	PHARMAC Communications Team
Minister of Health Press Secretaries	Minister of Health Private Secretary
Ministry of Health Deputy Director General System Strategy and Policy	Ministry of Health Manager System Stewardship
Ministry of Health Relationship Manager	Ministry of Health Media Team

This update may contain personal or sensitive information that must not be disclosed or forwarded to anyone other than the recipients listed above.

### On call communications advisor

Senior communications advisor Jane Wright is on call. The on-call media phone number is 021 863 342.

### Communications team

- Jannel Fisher, communications manager – s9(2)(a)
- Jane Wright, senior communications advisor – s9(2)(a)
- Cameron Webb, communications advisor – s9(2)(a)

Page 2 of Report is Out of Scope

Act

Out of Scope

**Media responses**

Subject	Media outlet	Details
Out of Scope		
Coronavirus	Newshub Nation	We have been asked a series of questions about medicine that have ingredients from China and any planning that is going on in response to the international outbreak. Deadline is Tuesday for most of her questions. A request for all correspondence relating to coronavirus is being put through as an OIA.

**Official Information Act responses sent or received this week**

Requestor	Request	Date
-----------	---------	------

s9(2)(a)	Mediaworks	All correspondence regarding PHARMAC's potential responses and planning around coronavirus	Received 19 February
----------	------------	--	----------------------

Out of Scope

s9(2)(a)		PHARMAC's coronavirus preparations	Received 17 February
----------	--	------------------------------------	----------------------

Out of Scope

**Ministerial responses sent this week**

Request	Requester	Response
Supply issues with Sinemet	s9(2)(a)	However, I am advised by PHARMAC that Sinemet has recently been out of stock due to an international shortage. PHARMAC are expecting normal supply to resume in the next few months. Situations such as these are out of the Government and PHARMAC's control, however it is expected there will still be an adequate replacement available to users. I understand that for a small number of people, changes in medication can be a high risk to due to their particular medical circumstances.

Out of Scope

		options and has not yet reached the consultation stage of the funding process.
--	--	--

**Written Parliamentary Question responses sent this week**

Requestor	Request	Response
1581 – Shane Reti	What were the criteria in 2019, if any, for funded Fluarix Tetra vaccinations for children	The criteria for fully funded Fluarix Tetra influenza vaccinations for children, which were applicable in 2019, set by PHARMAC, are outlined below (list was copied in response). The criteria are publicly available on PHARMAC's website <a href="https://www.pharmac.govt.nz/2019/04/01/Sched.pdf">https://www.pharmac.govt.nz/2019/04/01/Sched.pdf</a> (page 253)
1580 – Shane Reti	Was Fluarix Tetra the only flu vaccination for children under 3 in 2019?	Yes
1573 – Shane Reti	Did the Fluarix Tetra vaccine for children run out in 2019?	No
1582 Shane Reti	How many Fluarix Tetra vaccine immunisations, if any, were given in 2019, listed by public funded immunisations and privately paid immunisations?	17,958 Fluarix Tetra vaccines were distributed in 2019. PHARMAC does not hold information on vaccines administered.
Out of Scope		
1745 – Shane Reti	Has the Minister seen any communications suggesting	We have not provided the Minister with any

that when adult flu vaccine stocks were running low in 2019, pharmaceutical companies increased the price for private vaccinations?

communications regarding pharmaceutical companies pricing for privately funded influenza vaccinations

Out of Scope

