

Notifiable Disease Management System (NDMS) Privacy Statement

The Notifiable Disease Management System (the NDMS)

Health New Zealand - Te Whatu Ora uses a secure national electronic database to support the notification of infectious diseases and the accurate and secure recording of all notifiable disease case and contact activity.

Case investigation and contact tracing is a normal part of the management of all notifiable diseases. It's key to ensuring that we limit the spread of the disease.

This Privacy Statement outlines how Health New Zealand (referred to as "we" or "us") may collect, use, store and otherwise handle your personal information in NDMS in accordance with the Privacy Act 2020 and Health Information Privacy Code 2020.

We may update this privacy statement from time to time. This privacy statement was last updated on **27 February 2024**.

What are the purposes of the NDMS?

The purpose of the NDMS is to provide a national collection of notifiable infectious diseases and hazard events and to support case investigation and contact tracing. Information is collected and used for the following purposes:

- national and regional management, planning and reporting,
- auditing case investigation and contact tracing related services,
- quality improvements and statistical analysis,
- research purposes will be authorised by the Director-General of Health, if required and approval by an ethics committee has been given for that research and it will not be published in a form that could reasonably be expected to identify any individual.

Only authorised users who have been granted access credentials are able to access the NDMS, and these users will all be involved in case investigation and contact tracing related processes.

Is the collection of information voluntary?

Under the Health Act 1956, the initial notification of laboratory results is mandatory, and medical practitioners are required to notify people who have or are suspected of having a notifiable infectious disease.

Depending on the risk associated with that disease, case investigation and contact tracing activities will be undertaken to limit the spread. Some information will be sourced from other databases such as test results and contact details without any direct contact with individuals.

Case investigators and contact tracers will always seek to work with individuals to obtain information on a voluntary basis as this information is so important. However, if necessary, the case investigators and contact tracers may use the provisions of Part 3 of Subpart 5 of the Health Act 1956 and require individuals and other persons to provide information on a mandatory basis in accordance with the provisions of that Act.

How long will your information be kept for?

Information about the health records of any positive cases will be retained as required by the Health (Retention of Health Information) Regulations 1996. This means at least 10 years from the latest interaction. Other information that is not relevant for the management of notifications, case investigations and contact tracing purposes will either not be recorded in NDMS or be regularly deleted.

Storing Information Securely

We take reasonable steps to ensure your personal information is protected against loss, unauthorised access, use, modification, disclosure, or other misuse.

Access to and requests to correct the information

You have the right to access any information we hold about you and ask us to correct it if you think it is wrong.

To access any personal information held by us, or if you wish to correct your information, please email **[to be confirmed]**.

When making a request to access or change your information, please include:

- your name
- contact address (email or postal)
- contact phone number
- details of the information you want or want to correct - this needs to be as clear and specific as you can make it.

We may ask you for more details.

Please note that before we can provide you with your information or make any changes we need to be satisfied about your identity. To do so, we may need to ask you further questions or to view identification which establishes your identity.

Requesting information on behalf of someone else

If you are requesting information on behalf of someone else, you will need to provide their authorisation or other documentation to support that you have the right to do so.

Queries or Concerns

If you have any queries or concerns about how your personal information has been managed, please contact us to see if we can resolve the problem.

You can-

- Email us at hnzprivacy@health.govt.nz
- Write to us at Privacy Officer - Te Whatu Ora, PO Box 793, Wellington 6140, New Zealand

If you're not satisfied with our response to your concerns, you can contact the Office of the Privacy Commissioner. For more information [see the Office of the Privacy Commissioner's website](#).