

25 February 2021

[info@data.govt.nz](mailto:info@data.govt.nz)

Dear Sir/Madam

**Your Official Information Act request, reference: GOV-008777**

Thank you for your request of 1 February 2021, made via the [www.data.govt.nz](http://www.data.govt.nz) website, which we are providing under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

- *Have the numbers of claims to ACC for epistaxis treatment changed from before to after the start of covid swab testing?*

**Limitations to ACC data**

The data ACC collects about accidents is largely reliant on information provided on the ACC45 injury claim form which is completed when someone seeks treatment for an injury. Some parts of this form are mandatory to complete, and others are not. For example, it is mandatory for a client to indicate when their accident occurred, whether it occurred at work, and their occupation.

There is also a free text field on the claim form where clients are able to provide a brief description of how their accident happened. It is not mandatory to complete this field and not every client does so. Some clients provide more detail than others and the accuracy of these descriptions vary significantly.

Due to the limitations above, while largely representative of the claims received by ACC, the data should not be considered a complete, definitive measure of injuries resulting from COVID-19 swab testing.

**Claims data**

In the 2019 calendar year, 51 claims were accepted for epistaxis related injuries compared to 32 claims in the 2020 calendar year.

In relation to injuries following a COVID-19 swab test, in the 2020 calendar year, ACC accepted 17 claims. Of those claims, eight were accepted as a treatment injury claim.

A treatment injury is a personal injury caused as a result of seeking or receiving medical treatment from a registered health professional. In order to fulfil the criteria for cover, the person must have suffered a personal injury and there must be a clear causal link between the treatment and the injury, and the injury must not be a necessary part or ordinary consequence of the treatment.

**Notes about the data**

- The epistaxis claims were identified where the claim accident description contains
  - *Bleeding nose, nose bleed, nostril bleed, nasal bleed, or*
  - *Epistaxis, nose haemorrhage, nasal haemorrhage, nostril haemorrhage, nasopharynx bleed.*
- The COVID-19 test claims were identified where the claim accident description contains 'COVID 19 test/swab/sample' or 'coronavirus test/swab/sample'.

- For the treatment injury claims, a combination of a structured data extraction (*nasal procedures and nasal injuries*) and a free text search (*COVID*) was used.
- Free text search methods are not reliable data extraction methods and can result in anomalies in the data. The injuries accepted may not have all resulted in epistaxis or nasal bleeding.
- The data was extracted on 18 February 2021 and may differ if extracted at a later date.

**If you have any questions**

If you have any questions, you can email me at [GovernmentServices@acc.co.nz](mailto:GovernmentServices@acc.co.nz).

Yours sincerely

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

Sasha Wood  
**Manager Official Information Act Services**  
Government Engagement & Support