

## CORPORATE OFFICE

Level 1  
32 Oxford Terrace  
Christchurch Central  
**CHRISTCHURCH 8011**

Telephone: 0064 3 364 4134  
[Kathleen.Smithram@cdhb.health.nz](mailto:Kathleen.Smithram@cdhb.health.nz)

13 October 2021

9(2)(a)



### RE Official Information Act request CDHB 10725

I refer to your email dated 29 September 2021 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act from Canterbury DHB regarding policies on Mask Mandates for employees. Specifically:

1. I am writing in request of information on the CDHB policy regarding mask mandates for employees, what date did this come into effect?
  - a. Does this extend to the existing and any future contractors the CDHB holds existing contracts for?
2. Has the CDHB policy regarding mask mandates, been made readily available to all employees of the CDHB and (where applicable) contractors and on what date did this occur?
3. Has the CDHB (and contractors where applicable) carried out risk assessments as the PCBU required under the health and safety in work act 2015, prior to the implementation of the CDHB policy regarding mask mandates for employees and what date did this occur?
  - a. What is the nature and scope of the risk assessments conducted relative to the CDHB policy regarding mask mandates?
4. What is the CDHB policy regarding vulnerable employees, who are unable to wear a mask and have provided the appropriate exemption/certification?
5. Does the CDHB recognise ministry of health and DPA approved exceptions/cards?
  - a. Does the CDHB recognise medical certificates, issued by certified medical practitioners that exempt employees from mask wearing, by both the CDHB and its contractors?

Please provide a copy of all supporting documents and/ or information, relative to the questions outlined in the OIA request when it is reasonably practical.

### Canterbury District Health Boards response:

1. What is the CDHB policy regarding mask mandates for employees, what date did this come into effect? Does this extend to the existing and any future contractors the CDHB holds existing contracts for?

The Canterbury District Health Board (CDHB) follows the New Zealand Government Guidance around face masks. This includes Ministry of Health guidance for face masks in the Health Care setting. This extends to all contractors.

2. **Has the CDHB policy regarding mask mandates, been made readily available to all employees of the CDHB and (where applicable) contractors and on what date did this occur?**

All employees are reminded to follow government guidance on a regular basis. This information is made readily available to all staff, visitors and contractors.

3. **Has the CDHB (and contractors where applicable) carried out risk assessments as the PCBU required under the health and safety in work act 2015, prior to the implementation of the CDHB policy regarding mask mandates for employees and what date did this occur?**

This is not applicable as the Canterbury DHB does not have an individual Face Mask Policy but follows Ministry of Health Guidelines.

- a. **What is the nature and scope of the risk assessments conducted relative to the CDHB policy regarding mask mandates?**

Not applicable.

4. **What is the CDHB policy regarding vulnerable employees, who are unable to wear a mask and have provided the appropriate exemption/certification?**

The Canterbury DHB follows the New Zealand Guidance on exemptions. People who are exempt do not have to wear a mask. Our Managers work with staff who are exempt to risk assess their situation.

5. **Does the CDHB recognise ministry of health and DPA approved exceptions/cards?**

Yes

- a. **Does the CDHB recognise medical certificates, issued by certified medical practitioners that exempt employees from mask wearing, by both the CDHB and its contractors?**

Yes

I trust that this satisfies your interest in this matter.

Please note that this response, or an edited version of this response, may be published on the Canterbury DHB website after your receipt of this response.

Yours sincerely



Tracey Maisey  
**Executive Director**  
**Planning, Funding & Decision Support**