

27 September 2021

Mrs L Robinson



Via email: sentienthuman@protonmail.com

100 Heads Road, Private Bag 3003
Whanganui 4540, New Zealand

Tena koe Mrs Robinson

Official Information Act Request - OIA 13777 Policy on Mask Mandates for Employees

On 11 September 2021, under section 12 of the Official Information Act, you requested the following information from Whanganui District Health Board (WDHB):

- 1: What is the Whanganui District Health Board (WDHB) 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 WDHB holds existing contracts for?
- 2: Has the WDHB policy regarding mask mandates, been made readily available to all employees of the WDHB and (where applicable) contractors and on what date did this occur?
- 3: Has the WDHB (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 WDHB policy regarding mask mandates for employees and on what date did this occur?
 - a) What is the nature and scope of the risk assessments conducted relative to the WDHB policy regarding mask mandates?
- 4: What is the WDHB policy regarding vulnerable employees, who are unable to wear a mask and have provided the appropriate exemption/ certification?
- 5: Does the WDHB recognize Ministry of Health & DPA approved exemptions/ cards?
 - a) Does the WDHB recognize Medical Certificates, issued by Certified Medical Practitioners that exempt employees from mask wearing, by both the WDHB and it's Contractors?

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

Whanganui District Health Boards response:

- 1: What is the Whanganui District Health Board (WDHB) policy regarding mask mandates for employees, what date did this come into effect? Does this extend to the existing and any future contractors the WDHB holds existing contracts for?**

The Whanganui District Health Board does not have a policy and follows New Zealand government guidance for COVID levels.

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

All employees are reminded to follow government guidance.

Chief Executive | Phone 06 348 3140

3: Has the WDHB (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 WDHB policy regarding mask mandates for employees and on what date did this occur?

This is not applicable as the Whanganui District Health does not have an individual policy.

a) What is the nature and scope of the risk assessments conducted relative to the WDHB policy regarding mask mandates?

Not applicable

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

As per guidance provided by the New Zealand government, people who have an exemption certificate, are not required to wear a mask.

5: Does the WDHB recognize Ministry of Health & DPA approved exemptions/ cards?

Yes

a) Does the WDHB recognize Medical Certificates, issued by Certified Medical Practitioners that exempt employees from mask wearing, by both the WDHB and it's Contractors?

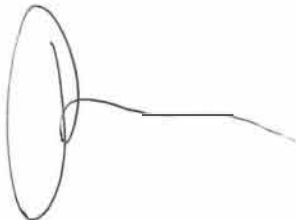
Yes

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

Not applicable, please see COVID website www.covid19.govt.nz

Should you have any further queries about the above information, please contact our OIA co-ordinator Anne Phoenix at anne.phoenix@wdhb.org.nz

Nga mihi

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, loopy initial 'R' followed by a horizontal line that tapers to the right.

Russell Simpson
Chief Executive