



11 May 2020



Dear [REDACTED]

Re: OIA request – Number of masks in stock

Thank you for your Official Information Act request received 30 April 2020 seeking information about the number of P2 and surgical masks in stock from Waitematā District Health Board (DHB).

Before responding to your specific questions, it may be useful to provide some context about our services.

Waitematā DHB serves a population of more than 630,000 across the North Shore, Waitakere and Rodney areas, the largest and one of the most rapidly growing DHBs in the country. We are the largest employer in the district, employing around 7,500 people across more than 80 different locations.

In addition to providing services to our own population, we are also the metropolitan Auckland provider of forensic psychiatry, child disability services, child community dental services and community alcohol and drug services.

As noted by the Ministry of Health (MoH), a well-fitting surgical/medical grade mask provides protection from droplets produced by the wearer because these are contained within the mask. It also protects the wearer from infectious respiratory droplets produced when a person within one metre of them coughs or sneezes. N95/P2 respirators filter small particles produced during aerosol-generating procedures (AGP). AGP are a set of interventions involving the upper and lower respiratory tract that can generate droplets that contain infectious respiratory secretions. More information about the role of face masks is available on the MoH website:

www.health.govt.nz/covid19-hp-advice

In response to your request, we are able to provide the following information:

1. Can you tell us the approximate number of

(i) P2 (or equivalent) masks.

The number of P2 (or equivalent) masks that Waitematā DHB had in stock as at 30 April 2020 was 140,860.

(ii) surgical masks you have in stock in your DHB using your last stock take figures.

The number of surgical masks that Waitematā DHB had in stock as at 30 April 2020 was 204,550.

2. Can you also provide the date of the stocktake?

As noted above, the figures provided are as at 30 April 2020.

I trust that this information is helpful.

Waitematā DHB supports the open disclosure of information to assist community understanding of how we are delivering publicly funded healthcare. This includes the proactive publication of anonymised Official Information Act responses on our website from 10 working days after they have been released.

If you consider there are good reasons why this response should not be made publicly available, we will be happy to consider your views.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'TB' with a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

Tamzin Brott
COVID-19 Executive Lead
Waitematā District Health Board