***INSTRUCTION PAGE i***

Text

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**Following is a template letter** that can be sent to your school Principal or your Board of Trustees where you are enquiring as to the newly introduced masks rues, and informing them of your child's exemption from wearing a face covering.

If you have been forwarded this letter by a friend, family member or colleague then please go to <https://voicesforfreedom.co.nz/resources> to see more information regarding applying for a face covering (mask) exemption certificate, or other masks' letters more specific to your situation.

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| --- |
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**GUIDE TO USING THIS LETTER**

Following is a proposed template letter you may consider sending to your child's Principal and/or Board of Trustees regarding face covering (mask) rules and/or your child’s exemption from wearing the same.

New Zealand moved to Orange Traffic Light setting on 13 April 2022 under the COVID-19 Health Response (Protection Framework and Vaccination) Amendments Order 2022 (The Amendment Order). [https://www.legislation.govt.nz/regulation/public/2022/0089/latest/whole.html#LMS671458](https://www.legislation.govt.nz/regulation/public/2022/0089/latest/whole.html" \l "LMS671458) relevant to masks, this updated the COVID-19 Health Response (Protection Framework) Order 2021 (**Orders**) [https://www.legislation.govt.nz/regulation/public/2021/0386/latest/whole.html#LMS599185](https://www.legislation.govt.nz/regulation/public/2021/0386/latest/whole.html" \l "LMS599185).

The Orders change regularly - for the latest orders see: .<https://covid19.govt.nz/about-our-covid-19-response/legislation-and-key-documents/>

At schools in Orange, face masks are:

* not required on kids “but are strongly encouraged” - schools may try to introduce a requirement for wearing mask at during school - this is not the law and therefore you can and should push back for a justified explanation as to why the school is maintaining the rule when the government is not;
* not required by staff, parents, caregivers, whanau, and other visitors “but are encouraged” – again not law.

[https://temahau.govt.nz/covid-19/advice-schools-and-kura/covid-19-protection-framework-school-and-kura/face-masks-schools-and-kura#face-masks-at-orange](https://temahau.govt.nz/covid-19/advice-schools-and-kura/covid-19-protection-framework-school-and-kura/face-masks-schools-and-kura" \l "face-masks-at-orange)

The only time masks are required by law to be worn pursuant to the order is school kids aged 12 and over on school buses (Schedule 7 Part 2 of the Amendment Order). There is also a requirement for face masks to be worn on flights, in retail, pharmacies, public transport and in public facilities (but not swimming pools). [https://www.legislation.govt.nz/regulation/public/2021/0386/latest/LMS672706.html#LMS672706](https://www.legislation.govt.nz/regulation/public/2021/0386/latest/LMS672706.html" \l "LMS672706)

If the school has taken the position that it requires face masks to be worn then this letter may be useful to you.

**Your child's school has various obligations.** Teachers have an important and trusted role in society and have a strong influence on learners in shaping their future. As such, each teacher is governed by the:

* Code of Professional Responsibility which sets out the high standards for ethical behaviour that are expected of every teacher <https://teachingcouncil.nz/assets/Files/Code-and-Standards/Code-of-Professional-Responsibility-English-one-page.pdf>
* Standards for the Teaching Profession and the expectations of effective teaching practice (respectively) <https://teachingcouncil.nz/assets/Files/Code-and-Standards/Our-Code-Our-Standards-Nga-Tikanga-Matatika-Nga-Paerewa.pdf>

**With respect to students, teacher's obligations to them include:**

1. promoting the wellbeing of learners and protecting them from harm
2. promoting inclusive practices to support the needs and abilities of all learners
3. being fair and effectively managing teacher's assumptions and personal beliefs

**Exemptions**

A school’s position to maintain the use of masks does not stop the rules on exemptions.

Exemptions are self-governing.

The grounds and circumstances giving rise to the **exemptions** from wearing a face covering are set out in the Order at paragraph 3 of the letter. The likely main ground for an exemption will be that you have a condition or disability making it unsafe, difficult or not possible for you to wear a face covering.

**Condition/s** are not defined, but a non-exhaustive list of conditions that people have found make wearing a face covering unsuitable includes:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| * shortness of breath * asthma * bronchitis | * pregnancy * feelings of anxiety * deafness | * PTSD * facial hair * skin irritation |

**Disability**[[1]](#footnote-2) is defined as:

1. physical disability or impairment:
2. physical illness:
3. psychiatric illness:
4. intellectual or psychological disability or impairment:
5. any other loss or abnormality of psychological, physiological, or anatomical structure orfunction:
6. reliance on a guide dog, wheelchair, or other remedial means:
7. the presence in the body of organisms capable of causing illness:

You and your child should not feel bad because they cannot wear a face covering. If they have any reason for not doing so, then as per the above exemptions they should feel comfortable in their position.

In early April 2022, **the MOH bought in a mask exemption card** called a “Communication Card”. These cards are the same as the ones issued by the Disabled Persons Assembly (but now specifying reasons). The MOH website states that:

*“A Communication Card has been developed for you to show to transport operators, retailers and service providers. These make it easier to explain*

*that a face mask is unsuitable for you.* ***There is no legal requirement to carry a Communication Card, though many choose to do so****.”*

<https://www.health.govt.nz/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-health-advice-public/covid-19-use-face-masks-community/covid-19-advice-people-who-are-unable-wear-face-mask>

The Communication Card was available until 30 May 2022 and is still valid.

From the beginning of June 2022, the **MOH bought in a personalised mask exemption** called a “Face Mask Exemption Pass”. The Face Mask Exemption Pass,

provides conclusive evidence that the holder is exempt under law from wearing a face mask. Because the pass is recognised in law, people with a Communication Card are encouraged to apply for a face mask exemption pass. For further details and how to apply

for a Face Mask Exemption Pass, see: <https://www.health.govt.nz/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-health-advice-public/covid-19-use-face-masks-community/covid-19-advice-people-who-have-difficulties-wearing-face-mask>

**HOW TO USE THIS LETTER?**

1. Read the letter carefully so that you understand what you are sending – this letter is **your letter**.
2. The points you need to complete or closely consider for your situation are highlighted yellow. Keep this information factual and do not hesitate to get it checked by a friend, colleague or family member.
3. This letter is only to be used in the situation where you are writing to the Principal and/or Board of Trustees at your child's school about the recent edict about masks in schools. If this letter does not apply to your situation, then go to. <https://voicesforfreedom.co.nz/resources> for other mask exemption template letters
4. Do not forget to include your email in the letter so your child's Principal knows where best to respond to you in writing.
5. Sign off the letter.
6. Print or email the letter – make sure you keep a copy. DO NOT include the first 5 instruction pages with the letter.

Your Principal or Board of Trustees may respond to this letter and if they do, then you will need to consider their response, and may need to obtain advice specific to your situation.

**YOUR CONTACT DETAILS**

**Name of Principal**

**Name of Board of Trustee Chairperson**

**Address**

**Address**

Date

FOR: The Principal OR The Board of Trustees Chair

**Mask exemption**

**Introduction**

On 13 April 2022 we moved to Orange under the *COVID-19 Public Health Response (Protection Framework) Order 2021* (the **Order**). That means for students, teachers and parents masks are no longer required at school.

On or about 21 July 2022, the Ministry of Education issued a strong recommendation for Term 3 that students Year 4 and above wear masks indoors for the next four weeks of term.

This is a "recommendation" only, albeit more strongly encouraged than in Term 2[[2]](#footnote-3). This does not mean that masks are compulsory; instead it has been left to each school board to make the call themselves.

I was most surprised to get the newsletter from the school that masks would be required at school. There is no government Order requiring masks to be worn at school, and therefore, it has assessed that the public health response has changed.

As the school has assessed that masks are required on the MOE’s strong recommendation, then please outline in detail the reasons for the school insisting on rules at odds with:

1. the government’s health response (ie it has not been mandated under government Order);
2. particularly given children are not at risk of COVID-19 (especially with Omicron, which is the current variant of concern – see Schedule B to this letter); and
3. all teachers are vaccinated and most teachers and children have now had COVID-19 anyway.

**Exemption**

Further and in the meantime, I am writing to let you know [child's name] has an exemption from wearing a mask.

The Order does not require either a medical certificate or a mask exemption card to prove an exemption.

Exemptions are self-governing and self-regulating and a person simply has to have a physical or other condition making it inappropriate for them to wear a face-covering. No reasons need to be specified. An exemption therefore needs to be accepted on face value (see clause 11(4) of the Order).

From the beginning of June 2022, the MOH bought in a personalised mask exemption called a “Face Mask Exemption Pass”. The Face Mask Exemption Pass provides conclusive evidence that the holder is exempt under law from wearing a face mask (clause 106A and 11(3)(l) of the Orders).[[3]](#footnote-4) It confirms that a person that has a personalised Face Mask Exemption Pass should be treated no differently from someone that can wear a mask. To do so, would be discrimination due to a disability, which is a breach of the section 44, Human Right Act 1993, not to mention the school’s obligation to children set out in the Code of Professional Responsibility[[4]](#footnote-5) and Standards for the Teaching Profession and the expectations of effective teaching practice[[5]](#footnote-6).

Schedule A to this letter includes the relevant provisions of the Order (see **attached**).

Schedule B to this letter also sets out the risk of COVID-19 in children and also outlines what the research says on kids wearing masks. I ask you to please review this information as it is important to get a balanced view on the risks of COVID-19 in children, the effectiveness of masks on children (or lack thereof), and more importantly, the dangers of masking children.

**Next steps**

I look forward to receiving the information from the school with respect to its decision to require face coverings for year 4 up for the first 4 weeks of Term 3, in the circumstances outlined at 1-3 on the previous page and in light of the dangers children face wearing face coverings (set out in Schedule B).

Further, I trust that my child’s face covering exemption will be respected and the face covering exemptions managed by the school with indifference.

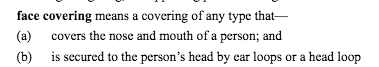
Yours sincerely,

[name/signature] and Email: [insert e-mail address]

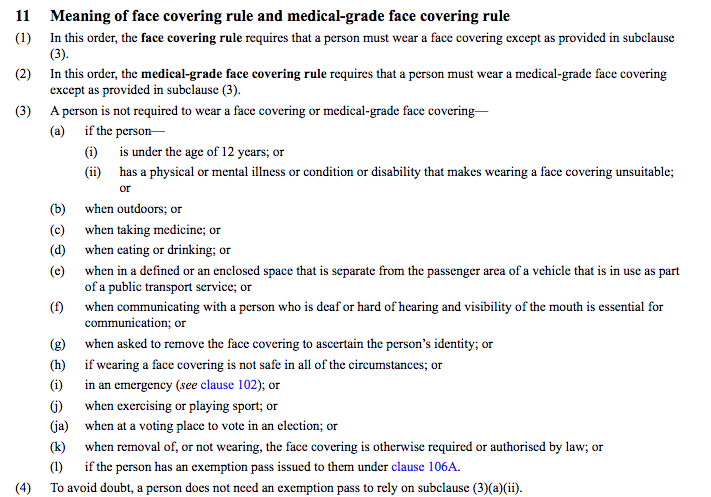
**Schedule “A”**

Following is the background information regarding masks and exemptions:

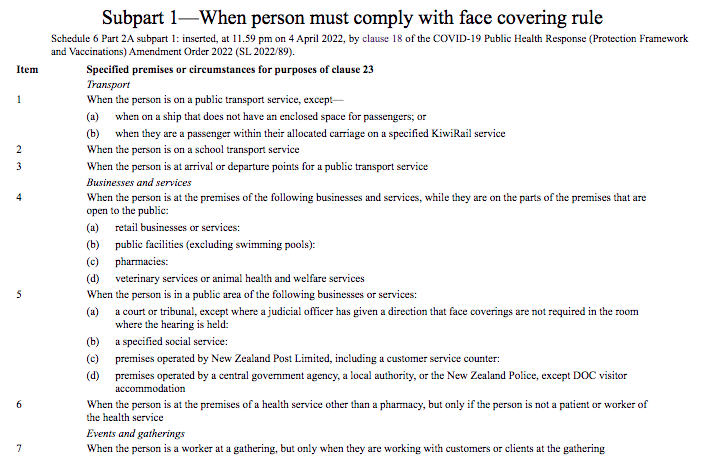
1. A **“face covering”** for students does not mean a specific type of mask or a medical mask. Face covering is defined in clause 5 of the Order:

****

1. **Under clause 11 of the Order, face covering rule has recently undergone further change (to include reference to medical grade masks for teachers). Note the grounds for exemptions under subsection (3) have not changed:**

****

Schedule 7 Red Part 2A of the Order **now** states that children in years 4 to 13 are required to wear a mask when:



1. Despite this, quite apart from the other specific circumstances mentioned, a student is exempt from wearing a face covering if it is not suitable, because of a condition that they have, or if it is not safe to wear a face covering in all of the circumstances (clause 11(4) of the Order – see under 2 above)
2. If a student has a condition (physical or mental), and they can’t wear a face covering safely or comfortably, they are exempt from wearing one and no exemption card is required to be carried - per clause 11(4) of the Order and also confirmed on the MOH website.[[6]](#footnote-7)
3. The Government’s COVID-19 website *Unite Against Covid* suggests that a person *may* carry an exemption card from Disabled Persons Assembly NZ.[[7]](#footnote-8)
4. On 6 April 2022, the MOH brought out a “Communication Card”, which is similar, if not the same as the exemption card issued by the DPA. The MOH site states “has been developed for you to show to transport operators, retailers and service providers. These make it easier to explain that a face mask is unsuitable for you. **There is no legal requirement to carry a Communication Card, though many choose to do so.”[[8]](#footnote-9)**
5. It is explicitly stated on every government website that a mask exemption card **is not a compulsory requirement,** as an exemption arises on the valid grounds specified in the Order. If you have a disability or health condition (mental or physical), which makes wearing a face covering unsuitable for you, then you are exempt from wearing one and no exemption card is required to be carried.[[9]](#footnote-10)
6. From 1 June 2022, a face mask exemption pass is now available under clause 106A of the Order. The pass provides conclusive evidence that the holder is exempt under law from wearing a face mask (clause 106A(1) and clause 11(3)(l) of the Order). Because the pass is recognised in law, people with a Communication Card are encouraged to apply for a Face Mask Exemption Pass.[[10]](#footnote-11)

**Schedule “B”**

**What are the risks of kids and COVID-19?**

1. The risk of death or serious disease from Covid-19 to children is **close to zero**[[11]](#footnote-12) and **children play an insignificant role in transmission** of Covid-19.[[12]](#footnote-13) This has been corroborated by the New Zealand Government on numerous occasions.[[13]](#footnote-14)
2. Further, the MOE’s announcements on 3 February 2022[[14]](#footnote-15), on **risk of COVID-19 in children** states:

*Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, public health advice has noted that our experience in New Zealand and overseas with COVID-19 shows that it does not affect children and teens in the same way it does adults. ...*

***Commonly, children have mild or no symptoms of COVID-19 with a short duration of illness that includes headache, fever, cough, nasal congestion and fatigue.*** *Those more at risk are those living with pre-existing health conditions such as asthma, diabetes and obesity and socioeconomic barriers to accessing health care.*

1. Further, the MOE’s announcement on 3 February 2022[[15]](#footnote-16), on **transmission** of COVID-19 amongst children states:

*While the role our tamariki play in transmitting COVID-19 is still unclear and is changing as new variants evolve and older populations become increasingly vaccinated, as of 28 January the Ministry of Health has advised “no new evidence has emerged yet on the transmission risk to or from children in light of Omicron …* ***it is likely that children continue to pose a lower risk of transmission****”.*

*As such, the Ministry of Health’s current advice is that* ***transmission within school settings continues to be limited*** *and is influenced by broader transmission in the community and household settings. That is, although children are susceptible to infection, transmission is more likely to occur between adults and from adults to children; the risk of child-to-child or child-to-adult transmission is considerably less.*

1. From the latest announcements from the Ministry of Education, there seems to be very little benefit in children wearing masks.
2. The Prime Minister in her press release of 23 March 2022 stated “Research published in the British Medical Journal late last year shows that mask-wearing reduces new Covid-19 cases by 53 percent. Masks matter.” The text and data of the study are different. The study actually stated:

*“Overall pooled analysis of six studies on mask wearing showed a 53 % reduction in Covid19 incidence* ***although heterogeneity between studies was substantial****. .... Heterogeneity among studies was substantial and risk of bias ranged from moderate to serious or critical for the presented analysis with a special serious-high risk on confounding (Figure 2)*.

*...****It was not possible to evaluate the impact of type of face mask (e.g., surgical, fabric, N95 respirators) and compliance and frequency of wearing masks owing to a lack of data.*** *Similarly, it was not feasible to assess the differences in effect that different recommendations for physical distances have as preventive strategies.”[[16]](#footnote-17)*

1. The BMJ felt compelled to correct media claims in January 2022 that their report said that masks gave a 53% reduction in transmission, adding further that:

*“Up to now there have been no studies that allow the conclusion that wearing masks beyond any doubt can protect against infection or transmission of the virus .... A report of the ECDC concluded there is no real evidence in favour of facemasks.*

*However, a number of studies suggest that masks may be harmful to human health and climate. Toxic compounds such as graphene oxide have been found in masks. In several countries (Belgium, Germany, Canada, The Netherlands) masks delivered by governments have been retracted from the market.”[[17]](#footnote-18)*

1. The school’s mandate is at odds with a recent interview Chris Hipkins[[18]](#footnote-19) gave in which he stated “Masks and portable air cleaners aren’t the best solutions for schools”. He also said the best science advice is that “classroom transmission isn’t the thing to be worried about,’’ and “Classrooms well managed with ventilation aren’t going to be the source of the problem” the evidence shows “For kids sitting in a classroom doing stationary activities with ventilation, the risk isn’t as high as it is for some of those activities that go on between and after classes.’’ This is in line with what he said when the country moved to Orange: masks are not a long-term solution.

**What does the research say on kids wearing masks?**

1. “Bacterial and fungal isolation from face masks under the COVID-19 pandemic” as reported July 2022[[19]](#footnote-20)
2. “How CDC Blatantly Uses Weekly Reports to Spread COVID Disinformation: Three Examples” including masks on kids[[20]](#footnote-21)
3. "Cloth face covers are not protective equipment and do not protect the person wearing a cover from COVID-19."[[21]](#footnote-22)
4. “We know that wearing a mask outside health care facilities offers little, if any, protection from infection."[[22]](#footnote-23)
5. There may be profound psychological harm caused to children through use of masks:

“*Many young children burst into tears or recoil when someone wearing a mask approach”*

*“By putting on masks, we take away information that makes it especially difficult for children to recognize others and read emotional signals, which is unsettling and disconcerting*.[[23]](#footnote-24)"

1. The elastic in surgical face masks may stimulate ear protrusion in children[[24]](#footnote-25).
2. There are some studies in favour of masking children from entities such as the CDC.[[25]](#footnote-26) However, there are serious criticisms of such studies.[[26]](#footnote-27)
3. “*The available data indicates a very probable and unacceptable risk, especially for children. It is not known which mask types are used, which pressure differences occur and/or whether children suffer from pre-existing conditions.* ***Damage to health cannot be ruled out.***

*Children wear the masks without interruption and even longer than adults are permitted to do in their working environment (within the framework of occupational health rules and regulations)!* ***A strict BAN on masks for children and adolescents is therefore advisable until proof of harmlessness has been provided***”.***[[27]](#footnote-28)***

1. A comprehensive overview of the current evidence regarding the effectiveness of face masks: <https://swprs.org/face-masks-and-covid-the-evidence/> which includes a detailed rebuttal of the Bangladesh study.
2. A New Zealand made video: <https://odysee.com/@voicesforfreedom:6/Challenging-Epidemiologist-Michael-Baker-on-Face-Masks---Mass-Masking:9>
3. An excellent succinct video on masks looking at absolute and relative risk analysis from an emergency room doctor: <https://odysee.com/@voicesforfreedom:6/Dr-Chris-Milburn-On-The-Efficacy-Of-Masks:0>
4. Video featuring our own Prime Minister and her ‘experts’ discussing masks and lack of effectiveness: [https://odysee.com/@voicesforfreedom:6/face-mask-logic-%28nonsense%29-from:5](https://odysee.com/@voicesforfreedom:6/face-mask-logic-(nonsense)-from:5)
5. A two-minute video on kids and masks: <https://odysee.com/@voicesforfreedom:6/mask-mandate-madness:8>
6. A recent Official Information Act enquiry response confirmed that: “Maintaining the requirement for face coverings on public transport in Alert Level 1 provides wider benefits that support the overall response to the pandemic. For example, face coverings are a constant reminder of the ongoing threat posed by COVID-19 and will help prompt people to be more vigilant about other important behaviours, such as physical distancing, scanning and using the New Zealand COVID Tracer App, hand hygiene and coughing and sneezing etiquette.” <https://dpmc.govt.nz/sites/default/files/2021-04/cab-20-min-0477-mandatory-masking.pdf>
7. An October 2021 review of relevant literature from an Australian website: <https://www.news.com.au/technology/science/human-body/its-crap-victorian-study-claiming-mandatory-masks-stopped-second-wave-shredded-by-experts/news-story/aeb937d27ec5a79e6b728ade598f49ab>
8. <https://childrenshealthdefense.org/the-science-of-masks/> a blog post with a reputable organisation which links to hundreds of articles and studies backing up statements made in our flyer.
9. Another resource put together by a group of diverse professionals including doctors, scientists, epidemiologists look at the ineffectiveness of masks, mask harms and particularly the negative health consequences for children wearing masks <https://www.pandata.org/infobank-masks/>
10. A short article which summarizes shortcomings of masks: <https://swprs.org/the-face-mask-folly-in-retrospect/>
11. Another comprehensive critique of mask studies: <https://eugyppius.substack.com/p/most-mask-studies-are-garbage>
12. Recently, the UK Government has released a new “Evidence Summary” looking at the use of face coverings in education settings. The BBC <https://www.bbc.com/news/health-59895934> looks at the study finding “it did not provide proof of a statistically significant impact…The Government admits the evidence for using masks in schools to reduce spread of Covid is ‘not conclusive’.”

1. Disability is defined in section 21(1)(h) of the Human Rights Act 1993. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. [https://bulletins.education.govt.nz/bulletin/he-pitopito-korero/issue/update-21-july-2022/date/2022-07-21#masking-up-for-term-3:-managing-winter-illnesses-and-covid-19](https://bulletins.education.govt.nz/bulletin/he-pitopito-korero/issue/update-21-july-2022/date/2022-07-21" \l "masking-up-for-term-3:-managing-winter-illnesses-and-covid-19) [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. <https://www.health.govt.nz/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-health-advice-public/covid-19-use-face-masks-community/covid-19-advice-people-who-have-difficulties-wearing-face-mask> [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. <https://teachingcouncil.nz/assets/Files/Code-and-Standards/Code-of-Professional-Responsibility-English-one-page.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
5. <https://teachingcouncil.nz/assets/Files/Code-and-Standards/Our-Code-Our-Standards-Nga-Tikanga-Matatika-Nga-Paerewa.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
6. The Ministry Of Health confirms that “*exemption cards are not mandatory*” here: <https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-health-advice-public/covid-19-use-masks-and-face-coverings-community/covid-19-advice-people-who-are-unable-wear-face-covering> [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
7. The government's Unite Against Covid site at [https://covid19.govt.nz/health-and-wellbeing/protect-yourself-and-others-from-covid-19/wear-a-face-covering/#request-an-exemption-card](https://covid19.govt.nz/health-and-wellbeing/protect-yourself-and-others-from-covid-19/wear-a-face-covering/" \l "request-an-exemption-card) directs those persons who are exempt and who (voluntarily) wish to apply for an exemption card to obtain the card through visiting any one of a number or recommended sites including the DPA site which confirms "*Some people may feel more comfortable showing something official that says they don’t have to wear a face covering, so the Ministry of Health has designed an exemption card that people can use. If anyone asks why you are not wearing a face covering, you can show them the card. … The use of this card is self-regulated and decided upon by the individual.*" [https://www.dpa.org.nz/resources/covid-19-information-for-the-disabled-community - exempt](https://www.dpa.org.nz/resources/covid-19-information-for-the-disabled-community" \l "exempt) [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
8. <https://www.health.govt.nz/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-health-advice-public/covid-19-use-face-masks-community/covid-19-advice-people-who-are-unable-wear-face-mask> [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
9. Above at 4. [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
10. [https://www.health.govt.nz/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-health-advice-public/covid-19-use-face-masks-community/covid-19-advice-people-who-have-difficulties-wearing-face-mask#advice-comm-card](https://www.health.govt.nz/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-health-advice-public/covid-19-use-face-masks-community/covid-19-advice-people-who-have-difficulties-wearing-face-mask" \l "advice-comm-card) [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
11. [Children and young people remain at low risk of COVID-19 mortality - The Lancet Child & Adolescent Health](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanchi/article/PIIS2352-4642(21)00066-3/fulltext);

    [Assessing the age specificity of infection fatality rates for COVID-19: systematic review, meta-analysis, and public policy implications - PubMed (nih.gov)](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/33289900/);

    [COVID-19: the green book, chapter 14a - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-the-green-book-chapter-14a). [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
12. [Assessing the age specificity of infection fatality rates for COVID-19: systematic review, meta-analysis, and public policy implications - PubMed (nih.gov)](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/33289900/);

    [Sharing a household with children and risk of COVID-19: a study of over 300 000 adults living in healthcare worker households in Scotland (bmj.com)](https://adc.bmj.com/content/archdischild/early/2021/03/17/archdischild-2021-321604.full.pdf);

    [To what extent do children transmit SARS‐CoV‐2 virus? - Isaacs - 2020 - Journal of Paediatrics and Child Health - Wiley Online Library](https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/jpc.14937);

    [Transmission of SARS-CoV-2 in Australian educational settings: a prospective cohort study - The Lancet Child & Adolescent Health](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanchi/article/PIIS2352-4642(20)30251-0/fulltext);

    <https://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/pediatrics/early/2021/01/06/peds.2020-048090.full.pdf>

    [Euro surveillance | Minimal transmission of SARS-CoV-2 from paediatric COVID-19 cases in primary schools, Norway, August to November 2020](https://www.eurosurveillance.org/content/10.2807/1560-7917.ES.2020.26.1.2002011). [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
13. <https://covid19.govt.nz/covid-19-vaccines/get-the-facts-about-covid-19-vaccination/covid-19-vaccination-and-children/> [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
14. <https://mailchi.mp/education/covid19-update-3-feb> [↑](#footnote-ref-15)
15. Ibid. [↑](#footnote-ref-16)
16. 18 November 2021 <https://www.bmj.com/content/375/bmj.n2729> [↑](#footnote-ref-17)
17. 18 January 2022 <https://www.bmj.com/content/375/bmj-2021-068302/rr-17> [↑](#footnote-ref-18)
18. <https://www.newsroom.co.nz/the-debate-that-does-chris-hipkins-head-in> [↑](#footnote-ref-19)
19. <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41598-022-15409-x> [↑](#footnote-ref-20)
20. <https://childrenshealthdefense.org/defender/cdc-morbidity-mortality-weekly-report-covid-disinformation/> [↑](#footnote-ref-21)
21. <https://www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/coronavirus/COVID-19-Infection-Prevention-in-Logistics.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-22)
22. <https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMp2006372> [↑](#footnote-ref-23)
23. <https://www.cugmhp.org/five-on-friday-posts/why-a-mask-is-not-just-a-mask/?fbclid=IwAR1_h_ykyuIOzQ9WqA_u_muupA8D8UwOgvnhlwcjoIw_CReHuKSPPmy2wC4> [↑](#footnote-ref-24)
24. Zanotti, B., Parodi, P. C., Riccio, M., De Francesco, F., & Zingaretti, N. (2020). Can the Elastic of Surgical Face Masks Stimulate Ear Protrusion in Children? *Aesthetic plastic surgery*, *44*(5), 1947–1950. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00266-020-01833-9> [↑](#footnote-ref-25)
25. One such example here: <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/70/wr/mm7021e1.htm>? [↑](#footnote-ref-26)
26. Examples of issues with the above CDC study is here <https://nymag.com/intelligencer/2021/08/the-science-of-masking-kids-at-school-remains-uncertain.html?utm_source=ActiveCampaign&utm_medium=email&utm_content=Masking+Kids+Still+Doesn+t+Make+Sense&utm_campaign=Masking+Kids+Still+Doesn+t+Make+Sense> : “*Scientists I spoke with believe that the decision not to include the null effects of a student masking requirement (and distancing, hybrid models, etc.) in the summary amounted to “file drawing” these findings, a term researchers use for the practice of burying studies that don’t produce statistically significant results. “That a masking requirement of students failed to show independent benefit is a finding of consequence and great interest,” says Vinay Prasad, an associate professor in University of California, San Francisco’s Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics. “It should have been included in the summary.” “The summary gives the impression that only masking of staff was studied,” says Tracy Hoeg, an epidemiologist and the senior author of a separate CDC study on COVID-19 transmission in schools, “when in reality there was this additional important detection about a student-masking requirement not having a statistical impact*.”” [↑](#footnote-ref-27)
27. <https://childrenshealthdefense.org/wp-content/uploads/Risks-associated-with-the-use-of-a-mouth-nose-cover-MNC-in-children-and-adolescents.pdf> page 9 [↑](#footnote-ref-28)