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Sent: Thursday, 17 February 2022 11:20 AM

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Subject: 2022 02 17 RESENT FROM ODI WITH EDIT PLEASE - advice on supply of masks to critical workers and at-risk populations


Importance: High

Kia ora Maria-Laura

The Office for Disability Issues (ODI) provides the following advice on the Briefing: *Distribution of Medical Grade Face Masks to Critical Workers and At-Risk populations*.

- The briefing does not adequately identify disabled people as an at-risk population. Overseas experience indicates higher acquisition rates and greater impacts of Covid-19 for disabled people. In UK statistics, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) has reported that people with a disability in the UK have been more likely to die as a result of Covid-19. Between January and November 2020, people with disabilities accounted for [6 out of every 10 deaths \(59.5%\) involving Covid-19](#).
- All programmes therefore need to broadly target disabled people, who are 1 in every 4 New Zealanders.
- The disability community are reporting a lack of confidence that their needs and vulnerability are being adequately addressed. Proactive actions are recommended.

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- The Briefing needs to consider the current discussions about Health's re-set mask exemptions policy by the Ministry of Health

Ngā mihi

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