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10 March 2023

§ 9(2)(a)

By email: § 9(2)(a)
Ref: H2023020535

Tēnā koe § 9(2)(a)

Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) received by Manatū Hauora (the Ministry of Health) as a transfer from Te Whatu Ora (Health New Zealand) on 22 February 2023 for information regarding COVID-19. You requested:

"It has now been conclusively proven in the Cochrane study paper of 30-Jan-2023, https://www.cochrane.org/CD006207/ARI_do-physical-measures-such-hand-washing-or-wearing-masks-stop-or-slow-down-spread-respiratory-viruses, that masks do not stop the transmission of covid. Are you going to update this website because it is now giving incorrect / wrong advice"

Manatū Hauora notes the findings of the Cochrane study and will continue to monitor emerging international evidence regarding COVID-19 including evidence of mask efficacy. Our COVID-19 science news webpage is regularly updated as significant evidence is assessed and deemed of relevance to the current COVID-19 response. You can read our science news here: [COVID-19: Science news | Ministry of Health NZ](#).

Please also note that mandates related to mask usage fall under Cabinet ruling, with Manatū Hauora providing evidence and recommendations when required.

I trust this information fulfils your request. Under section 28(3) of the Act, you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review any decisions made under this request. The Ombudsman may be contacted by email at: info@ombudsman.parliament.nz or by calling 0800 802 602.

Please note that this response, with your personal details removed, may be published on the Manatū Hauora website at: www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/information-releases/responses-official-information-act-requests.

Nāku noa, nā



Louise Karageorge
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