

30 June 2021

Micky Turner

By email: fyi-request-15603-c2d28xxx@xxxxxxxxxxx.org.nz
Ref: H202106709

Tēnā koe Micky

Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) which was transferred from Hon Chris Hipkins, Minister for COVID-19 Response, to the Ministry of Health (the Ministry) on 31 May 2021 for:

“In light of the surging new Covid 19 variants - can you please advise the quantity of N95 masks the government will have in stock every month for the next 12 months? Can you please also forward the details of how these will be distributed to the public and essential workers in the event of full or partial lockdowns?”

The Ministry has forward orders of N95/P2 particulate respirators, with schedules of when these are due to arrive. The arrival of these masks into New Zealand can be compromised due to current international sea and air freight constraints.

It is difficult to respond to the first part of your request due to variabilities in the usage, ordering and despatch numbers. Each month is different and varies depending on what is occurring in the health and disability sector at the time. For example, we are currently seeing an increase in common flu-like illness and respiratory syncytial virus which suggests there will be an increased demand on N95/P2 respirators, as patients present with COVID-19-like symptoms.

From January to June 2021, we have seen a monthly despatch average of about 70,000 N95/P2 particulate respirators from the Ministry's central supply of PPE. The table overleaf outlines the anticipated schedule of delivery for the next 12 months, with the following caveats:

- Some goods scheduled for delivery in June 2021, have been receipted and included in the stock on hand figure.
- The delivery schedule is updated with actual figures only when goods have been receipted into the Ministry's warehousing facilities and invoiced against the order.
- The delivery schedule provides an indication of when goods will arrive.
- The delivery schedule may be renegotiated, and goods may arrive earlier or later than anticipated. Reasons for later delivery could include manufacturing delays, logistics and freight constraints, and COVID-19 restrictions impacting capacity.

Table 1. Anticipated delivery schedule of N95/P2 masks for the next 12 months

Date of anticipated delivery schedule	Total number of N95/P2 masks
Stock on hand as at 23 June 2021	11,204,951
June 2021	7,935,280
July 2021	3,933,520
August 2021	1,599,920
September 2021	1,663,920
October 2021	1,300,000
November 2021	1,200,000
December 2021	1,200,000
January 2022	100,000
February 2022	100,000
March 2022	100,000
April 2022	100,000
May 2022	100,000

In response to the second part of your request, there are a range of Infection, Prevention and Control (IPC) guidance documents available to all staff in both the health sector setting and at the border that provide PPE requirements. In situations where a medical/procedure mask is suitable PPE for health care staff and border workers the IPC guidance outlines the settings and activities in more detail. You may be interested in the range of IPC (including border) documents that are publicly available at:

- www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-information-specific-audiences/covid-19-resources-border-sector
- www.miq.govt.nz/assets/operations-framework-managed-isolation-and-quarantine-facilities.pdf
- www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-information-specific-audiences/covid-19-personal-protective-equipment-workers/personal-protective-equipment-use-health-and-disability-care-settings.

Healthcare staff and border workers that contribute to New Zealand's response to COVID-19 can order PPE directly from the Ministry. The Ministry's Principles of Supply outline the PPE available across categories of service and at each Alert Level. Further information is available at: www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-information-specific-audiences/covid-19-personal-protective-equipment-central-supply.

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 Ministry website at: www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/information-releases/responses-official-information-act-requests.

Nākū noa, nā



Darryl Carpenter

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