



## Briefing Note: Providing child-sized masks for learners in schools and kura

<b>To:</b>	Hon Jan Tinetti, Associate Minister of Education		
<b>cc:</b>	Hon Chris Hipkins, Minister of Education Hon Kelvin Davis, Associate Minister of Education Hon Aupito William Sio, Associate Minister of Education		
<b>Date:</b>	29 June 2022	<b>Priority:</b>	High
<b>Security Level:</b>	In Confidence	<b>METIS No:</b>	1290374
<b>Drafter:</b>	Richard Joblin	<b>DDI:</b>	9(2)(a)
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<b>Messaging seen by Communications team:</b>	No	<b>Round Robin:</b>	No

### Purpose of Report

This briefing note updates you on the supply of additional masks to schools and kura to use at their discretion for learners, including the supply of child-sized masks. This will be funded from within Vote Education baselines from underspends this financial year.

The purchase of an additional supply of child size masks (for learners in years 4-7) will allow schools and kura to continue to order masks until the end of the school year. Adult sized masks are also available to students in years 8 and above, drawing on the supply already in stock for school staff.

Note that we have secured a supply of 10 million child sized masks to allow schools to order these masks for students until the end of 2022. We also have sufficient stock of adult sized masks for older age groups.

## Proactive Release

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- a **agree** that the Ministry of Education release this briefing (with the pricing information redacted, as this remains commercially sensitive) once the Minister for COVID-19 Response has made announcements.

☒ **Agree** ☐ **Disagree**



Helen Hurst  
**Chief Operating Officer**  
**Te Pae Aronui | Operations and Integration**

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Hon Jan Tinetti  
**Associate Minister of Education**

02 / 07 / 2022

## Context: A one-off supply of masks provided for three months

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1. Following the announcement of requirements for medical grade mask in workplaces there was a strong expectation from the sector that schools and kura were provided with appropriate masks. On 29 January, the Minister of Education agreed we would provide medical grade masks to teachers and other education workers in schools and kura for an estimated three months, funded from underspends.
2. On 4 February, the Minister agreed we provide a one-off supply of child sized masks (for children in Years 4-7), and adult sized medical masks (for older age groups) with distribution based on decile and roll size. While students are expected to provide their own masks, the additional one-off supply of child-sized masks to schools has allowed them to support whānau who found it difficult to supply their own.
3. On 15 February we advised schools through the Bulletin that we will be providing this one-off supply of masks to schools and kura for all learners in Years 4 and above (up to Year 13), that this supply was limited and was to enable schools to cover any additional needs they may face.
4. On 31 May, we advised schools we were aware some schools are providing masks for some students and are running low on child-sized masks. We advised schools that, unfortunately, we did not have any more stock as this was a one-off supply.
5. At Orange, masks must be worn by ākonga aged 12 and above on school and public transport and it is strongly encouraged that face masks continue to be worn by ākonga and staff in Years 4-13 when indoors and strongly recommended in large indoor gatherings such as assemblies.

## Making child sized masks available again for schools and kura

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6. In line with the discussion at the COVID-19 Weekly Ministers and Officials meeting on Monday 27 June, we have secured a supply of child sized masks to allow schools to access these at no cost until the end of 2022. While students will still be expected to provide their own masks, the additional supply of child-sized masks to schools and kura will allow them to continue to support whānau who find it difficult to supply their own.
7. Schools will be able to order up to one pack of 50 masks per student (child-sized masks in years 4-7, adult sized for older age groups) in terms 3 and 4 in 2022. We have secured a supply of 10 million child masks at a cost of 9(2)(i), which we expect to be sufficient to last until the end of 2022. We will make additional masks available to special schools, special needs units and to any school that requires additional supply due to the particular health needs of students attending.
8. The extension of the supply of child sized masks and adult sized masks for older age groups will be included as part of a range of COVID-19 related announcements this Thursday, 30 June 2022.

9. As with masks for the education workforce, we will invite schools to order the masks they require for students (up to 50 per student per term). The existing ordering system is working well and taking this approach avoids the oversupply of masks to schools that could happen if we proactively distributed child sized mask to all schools and kura based on their school rolls. We have updated the ordering system and schools will be able to order masks for students immediately after the announcement of this extension on Thursday 30 June, with an expectation that if they order shortly after the announcement masks will be delivered for the start of Term 3.
10. Our supplier has confirmed they have immediate access to a supply of 4 million child sized masks, with the remaining being available later in Term 3. We already hold sufficient stock of adult sized masks.