

**From:** [ODI \(MSD\)](#)  
**To:** [Maria-Laura Crespo](#); Out of scope  
**Cc:** [Diane Turner](#); [Shaun McMaster](#); [ODI \(MSD\)](#)  
**Subject:** RE: URGENT: For comment by 10.30m Tuesday, 25 January - Draft Omicron Cabinet paper  
**Date:** Tuesday, 25 January 2022 9:01:40 am  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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Mōrena Maria-Laura

Thank you for keeping ODI close to this work. We offer the following comments:

### **Report**

- We suggest including those individuals with approved exemptions (for medical or disability reasons) at para 15.
- We strongly support reviewing of the processes around face covering exemptions.
- We recommend including messaging that masks should also be worn outside when others are nearby. This would be consistent with the settings proposed for outdoor events where people need to be spaced. It would also be consistent with the emphasis on vulnerable people in the Cabinet paper. Travelling on a footpath through a shopping area, for instance, can often require moving or standing very close to others, including at traffic lights. It would seem sensible to encourage everybody to be wearing a mask outdoors if they are likely to be close to other people. This risk is of great concern to some disabled people. For example, not normalising this approach effectively confines blind people to isolation as they cannot see who might be close to them and not wearing a mask.
- Please include ODI at para 44 (Consultation).
- We suggest Attachment A should include messaging to encourage wearing face masks in outdoor settings where people may be closer to others than one metre.

### **Cabinet Paper**

- ODI endorses the approach and rationale proposed at para 13.3.
- Para 30 seems out of date?
- We recommend the expansion of outdoor mask wearing beyond just events, as at Para 31.2. General wearing of masks outdoors where people are close to each other (e.g., 1 metre) would help enable more disabled people to continue to feel confident in venturing out of their homes.
- We suggest the table at para 32 should include messaging to encourage wearing face masks in outdoor settings where people may be closer to others than one metre.
- Regarding RATs, some disabled people won't be able to manage these independently, so disruption to their supports will have even greater impacts.

Ngā mihi,  
Ken Bowater

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