



30 November 2020

[Redacted]

Reference: OIA-2020/21-0214

Dear [Redacted]

**Official Information Act request relating to COVID-19 - Proof of facial coverings preventing transmission**

Thank you for your correspondence of 9 November and your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request received on 16 November 2020. You requested:

*"All records in the possession, custody or control of the Prime Minister and Cabinet describing the experimentation proving that facial coverings prevent the supposed SARS-COV-2 virus from being transmitted and prevents SARS-COV-2 from infecting humans..."*

DPMC holds no information relevant to this request beyond what is publicly available. Public sources include various organisations such as the World Health Organisation websites and publicly available academic papers, which describe the efficacy of wearing face coverings in reducing the transmission of COVID-19. We recommend you refer to the World Health Organization (WHO) website at the following address: ([https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/advice-on-the-use-of-masks-in-the-community-during-home-care-and-in-healthcare-settings-in-the-context-of-the-novel-coronavirus-\(2019-ncov\)-outbreak](https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/advice-on-the-use-of-masks-in-the-community-during-home-care-and-in-healthcare-settings-in-the-context-of-the-novel-coronavirus-(2019-ncov)-outbreak)). Therefore, I am refusing your request under section 18(d) of the Act, as the information you have requested is publicly available.

You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my decision under section 28(3) of the Act.

This response will be published on the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet's website during our regular publication cycle. Typically, information is released monthly, or as otherwise determined. Your personal information including name and contact details will be removed for publication.

Yours sincerely

[Redacted]  
Cheryl Barnes  
**Deputy Chief Executive,  
COVID-19 Response**