



1.0 SCOPE

This policy applies to all current members of a Surf Lifesaving Club and SLSNZ staff

2.0 PURPOSE

This policy is required to inform staff and members about the use of masks in our environment to slow the spread of Covid-19 and protect the health system. In our context we need to protect our ability to maintain effective patrols, paid or volunteer.

3.0 INTRODUCTION

Correctly wearing a mask is proven to be an effective protection against transmission of Covid-19. Correctly wearing a suitable mask is required to ensure our operational ability is not compromised. It is also required to protect all our members while engaging in SLSNZ activities.

4.0 RELATED DOCUMENT, POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

- 4.1 [Government Health order](#)
- 4.2 [National Operations Circular, Mask Mandate](#)

5.0 EXCEPTIONS

- 5.1 Children under the age of 12 are exempt from this policy (except at school & public transport).
- 5.2 Holders of medical exemptions issued by the ministry of health.

6.0 POLICY

- 6.1 If a role is mandated to be vaccinated (lifeguards, SAR squads, Beach Educators, Rookies) then it is also mandated to wear a medical mask (also known as a Level II, or disposable blue surgical mask) when performing those duties. Make sure it is worn over the nose and mouth and shape the nasal bridge wire to stop air leakage. You may choose to wear a more protective mask such as an N95/KN95 respirator, but not a less protective mask, such as a cloth mask.
- 6.2 It is mandatory to wear a mask when attending events and gatherings (except when eating, drinking & exercising or those under 12).
- 6.3 Only level 2 surgical masks and above are acceptable for roles included in the mandate as well as for 'customer-facing' workers at events & gatherings.
- 6.4 Other roles within the SLSNZ movement must adhere to government requirements to wear a three-ply cloth mask with a wire nose bridge and ear loops as a minimum. All other forms of face covering are no longer acceptable



7.0 PROCEDURES

The following is our advice for various sections of the Surf Life Saving movement.

Club management activities

Committee meetings and club gatherings must be held outdoors or in well ventilated spaces with masks on when not eating or drinking. Groups should not congregate before or after activities to protect our ability to patrol effectively.

On patrol

You must wear a medical mask (also known as a level II surgical mask, or better) when on patrol, operating with members of the public, Performing first aid, or near multiple other lifeguards.

Generally, masks on when not eating, drinking, exercising or in/on the water. Groups should not congregate before or after activities to protect our ability to patrol effectively.

SAR callout

You must wear a medical mask (also known as a level II surgical mask, or better) or better when with other agencies such as Ambulance, Police, Coastguard. In water activity makes it impractical to wear masks and the risk is low but masks on when not eating, drinking, exercising or in/on the water. Groups should not congregate before or after activities to protect our ability to patrol effectively.

Beach Education

You must wear a medical mask (also known as a level II surgical mask, or better) when with your school group. All school students from year 4 are mandated to wear masks. Please ensure you monitor your participants and helpers and maintain good compliance.

For instructors, masks on when not eating, drinking, exercising or in/on the water. Groups should not congregate before or after activities.

Club Junior Surf Programmes, Sport Trainings & Surf Lifesaving Sport Competitions

It is mandatory to wear masks at all events and gatherings. except when eating, drinking & exercising or if under 12. 3-ply cloth masks, or better, are acceptable.

Junior Surf Programmes & Sport Trainings are considered 'gatherings', while Competitions are considered events, therefore all those participating in, involved in the delivery of or within the defined space of those activities must adhere to this policy.

Document Management and Control

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