COVID-19

Ear Guards – Supply, Disinfection and Reuse

Community members with 3D printers have made offers to print and deliver “ear guards” or “mask extenders” for use by health care workers. These adaptor devices are for use with ear loop style masks intended to provide relief from pressure on the ears during extended wear.

Design and Materials:

“Ear Guards” should be made from one of the three preferred plastic materials as they can be disinfected with facility-approved disinfectant and do not require laundering.

PETg – Polyethylene terephthalate glycol
PLA = Polylactic acid
ABS = Acrylonitrile Butadiene Styrene

Various open source designs exist which may be used by community members looking to print and deliver these items. The style and materials used at the following site have been reviewed by Manitoba’s COVID-19 operations. Please refer to [https://www.thingiverse.com/thing:4269239](https://www.thingiverse.com/thing:4269239).

Disinfection Guidelines:

Individual health care workers are responsible for disinfecting personal “ear guards”, using the following instructions. Ear guards shall:

- Have smooth surface/minimal ridges and be made of appropriate material that can tolerate disinfection with facility-approved disinfectant. Dispose items that cannot be disinfected after use.
- be dedicated to one person and not shared
- Doffed, then disinfected (ensure appropriate wet contact time and allow to air dry), and then maintained clean until the next use