



## APPENDIX A

**DATE:** April 29, 2020

**TO:** All Youth Justice Direct Operated Facility Staff

**FROM:** Paul Wheeler, Director, Direct Operated Facility Branch (DOFB)

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**RE:** Personal use of Surgical/Procedure Masks

The Youth Justice Division Direct Operated Facility Branch continues to respond to the challenges presented by the COVID-19 outbreak. As advice has evolved often and rapidly, we will continue to follow the guidance of public health experts to maintain a safe, healthy environment for our staff and youth.

Please be advised that we are implementing the attached “Personal Use of Surgical/Procedure Masks in Youth Justice Direct Operated Youth Centres” guidelines effective April 29, 2020. These guidelines will be in place until further notice and will be reviewed and updated on a regular basis.

As an added level of protection to the existing measures in place in direct operated youth centres, the Branch is providing masks to employees. The provision of standard surgical/procedure face masks provides an alternative to the use of personal masks in the workplace. It is important to understand that the use of these masks is not an alternative to frequent hand washing, physical distancing, and other preventative measures. This does not replace the use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) where additional precautions are required, e.g. youth intake screening or for the purposes of isolation.

The current screening protocols, temperature checks, suspension of personal visits, frequent cleaning, hand washing, and the promotion of physical distancing will continue to be important measures to promote a safe and healthy workplace.

We cannot stress enough that the health, well-being and safety of staff and youth are key to the decisions and actions taken. If you have questions, please speak with your supervisor.

Thank you for your continued commitment and professionalism during these truly challenging times.

Sincerely,

Paul Wheeler