

Cleaning and Disinfecting 3M™ PELTOR™ Protection & Communication Solutions following Potential Exposure to Coronaviruses

Description

3M is experiencing an increase of inquiries asking for guidance on how to clean and disinfect the PELTOR products. During coronavirus outbreaks, some essential worker groups may be assigned a PELTOR headset or in-ear solution to assist with social distancing at the workplace. This document contains considerations related to cleaning and disinfecting PELTOR products, that will be used again after potential exposure to coronaviruses. In some cases, workers may be sharing headsets, so it is important to understand how to clean and disinfect between users.

Cleaning

Definition: Removal of all soil (organic and inorganic) and foreign material from objects and surfaces. This is typically accomplished with water and mechanical action. Detergents may be used to assist the process.

NOTE: Failure to remove foreign material (soil, face oils, etc.) from an object can make the disinfecting process ineffective.^{1,2}



NOTE: Do NOT immerse the hearing protector in water to clean. If the hearing protector gets wet from cleaning, rain or sweat, turn the earmuffs outwards, remove the ear cushions and foam liners, and allow to dry before reassembly. This is important to preserve and protect the electronic components inside the cups.

The ear cushions and foam liners may deteriorate with use and should be examined at regular intervals for cracking or other damage. When used regularly, 3M recommends replacing the foam liners and ear cushions at least twice a year to maintain consistent attenuation, hygiene, and comfort. If an ear cushion is damaged, it should be replaced.

*Refer to the User Instructions for the correct Hygiene Kit and foam windsocks for each PELTOR product. The HYM1000 Microphone Tape & HYM100 Hygiene order information is below:

3M PELTOR Accessories

3M Product Number	Description	3M ID
HY100A	3M™ PELTOR™ Clean Hygiene Pad, 100 pair	7100064410
HYM1000	3M™ PELTOR™ Mic Protector (5m), Black	7100064281

Disinfecting

Definition: A process of inhibiting or destroying disease-producing microorganisms (but may not kill bacterial spores). It usually involves the use of chemicals, heat, and/or ultraviolet light and is divided into three categories: high, intermediate and low-level disinfection.^{1,2}

Please always refer to the latest information from trusted sources such as the World Health Organization ([WHO](#)), the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ([U.S. CDC](#)), the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration ([OSHA](#)) and the European Centres for Disease Prevention and Control ([ECDC](#)) regarding selection, use, maintenance and cleaning of personal protective equipment. At this time, the regulatory bodies have not issued specific guidance for disinfecting communication headsets and in-ear solutions such as the PELTOR products in case of contact with the coronavirus.

PELTOR headsets and in-ear solutions external surfaces can be disinfected by lightly rubbing the product for 60 seconds per surface (each cup, headband, earpiece, etc.) with a cloth soaked (squeezing out excess liquid) with at least 60% ethanol or 70% isopropyl alcohol.⁵ Commercial 70% alcohol swabs, prep pads, or wipes can also be used. Allow to completely dry before using. If the headset becomes wet during disinfection, turn earmuffs outwards, remove the ear cushions and foam liners, and allow to dry before reassembly. **Do NOT immerse the PELTOR products in disinfecting liquid or use heat, ultraviolet light, sodium hypochlorite solution (commonly referred to as bleach) or hand sanitizers to disinfect, as this may damage the product.**

To assist in identification of commercially available disinfectants that meet the criteria above, the following references are being included and may be useful. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published [List N: Disinfectants for Use Against SARS-CoV-2](#)³. It is a list of EPA's registered antimicrobial products for use against novel coronavirus SARS-CoV-2, the cause of COVID-19, as a reference for specific disinfectants that can be used against coronaviruses. In Canada, Health Canada has a [database](#)⁴ of Drug Identification Number (DIN) approved disinfecting agents for use against novel coronavirus SARS-CoV-2, the cause of COVID-19. Consult applicable local guidance for your region as it is related to disinfection for coronaviruses.

NOTE: 3M relies on the expertise of the CDC and EPA with respect to microbiological efficacy and has not evaluated the effectiveness of these agents with regards to inactivating viruses on 3M equipment.

Your facility should review this information thoroughly prior to selecting this disinfecting product for your equipment and specific application. Follow the hygiene and infection control practices established by your employer for the targeted

3M Personal Safety Division

organisms, including coronaviruses. Please note that 3M has not evaluated the effectiveness of any agents with regards to inactivating viruses on 3M equipment.

NOTE: The guidance in this Technical Bulletin may exceed the directions found in certain 3M PELTOR *User Instructions* and is therefore intended only for cleaning and disinfecting following potential exposure to coronaviruses. Note that PELTOR product components may experience detrimental effects over time with prolonged or extended use of disinfecting products. As discussed in the product *User Instructions*, users must inspect their product prior to each use. If you discover any signs of damage, remove the PELTOR from service and either replace components or replace the entire headset or earpiece as appropriate, following the guidance in the product *User Instructions*. A best practice is not to share PELTOR products.

3M PELTOR In-Ear Solutions

PELTOR in-ear solutions have similar cleaning and disinfection as the headsets. Earpieces can be cleaned with a damp cloth and charging contacts cleaned with a cotton swab. Charging cases can be cleaned with a damp cloth and charging points cleaned with a cotton swab. Refer to the User Instructions. Both the earpieces and charging case can be wiped with at least 60% ethanol or 70% isopropyl alcohol as directed above for the headsets.

3M™ Skull Screw™ Communication Eartips, 3M™ Torque™ Communication Eartips and 3M™ PELTOR™ CCC-GRM-25 Communication Eartips can be cleaned by wiping with a clean, dry cloth. Replace if eartip is damaged, detached from the stem, or is not soft and pliable. 3M™ UltraFit™ Communication eartips can be washed with warm water and soap. Look for tears or cracks under any of the flanges and replace as necessary. See *User Instructions* for details.

Before using any of the products or information detailed herein, you must evaluate it and determine if it is suitable for your intended use. You assume all risks and liability associated with such use. 3M makes no warranties relating to the efficacy of any of the products detailed herein in preventing the spread and/or contraction of coronavirus. 3M will not be liable for any loss or damage arising from any information contained herein, whether direct, indirect, special, incidental or consequential, regardless of the legal or equitable theory asserted, including warranty, contract, negligence or strict liability.

Technical information provided by 3M is based on experience and/or test data believed to be reliable, but the results may not be relevant to every user's application. For this reason, 3M does not accept any responsibility or liability, direct or consequential, arising from reliance upon any information provided. The user should determine the suitability of any disinfectant product for compatibility for use with 3M products.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your local 3M representative.

References

- 1) Rutala, WA. American Journal of Infection Control. APIC Guideline for Selection and Use of Disinfectants. Vol. 24, No. 4, pp. 313-342, August 1996.
- 2) Rutala, WA. CDC. Guideline for Disinfection and Sterilization in Healthcare Facilities. 2008.
- 3) List N. EPA's Registered Antimicrobial Products for Use Against Novel Coronavirus SARS-CoV-2, the Cause of COVID-19. United States Environmental Protection Agency. 04/03/2020. <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2>
- 4) Government of Canada Hard-Surface disinfectants (COVID-19: List of approved hard-surface disinfectants. 03/30/20. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/disinfectants/covid-19/list.html>
- 5) Guideline for Disinfection and Sterilization in Healthcare Facilities, 2008; updated 2009. United States Centers for Disease Control. William A. Rutala, Ph.D., M.P.H., David J. Weber, M.D., M.P.H. and the Healthcare Infection Control Practices Advisory Committee (HICPAC). 2008. <https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/pdf/guidelines/disinfection-guidelines-H.pdf>

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PSD products are
occupational use only.

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Customer Service: 1-800-328-1667
[3M.com/workersafety](https://www.3m.com/workersafety)

In Canada

Technical Service: 1-855-484-3093
Customer Service: 1-800-364-3577
[3M.ca/Safety](https://www.3m.ca/Safety)

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