

Fluid-Resistant (Type IIR) Surgical Face Masks (FRSM)

29 April 2020

Fluid-resistant (Type IIR) surgical masks (FRSM) provide barrier protection against respiratory droplets reaching the mucosa of the mouth and nose. These masks must be worn in accordance with the COVID-19 Infection Prevention and Control Guidance and conform to the International Standard: EN14683.

The two most commonly used design of Type IIR FRSM are tie back and ear loop. National Procurement have recently procured the ear loop style Type IIR FRSM. Whilst it is recognised that staff may be more familiar with the tie-back style of Type IIR FRSM please be assured that the ear loop masks are fit for purpose and do fully meet the International Standard (EN14683).

National Procurement have processes in place to ensure that all Type IIR FRSM meet the relevant standard and are fully tested. They are currently working with suppliers to ensure that manufacturer's instructions include how to correctly fit the ear loop design for staff that are unfamiliar with this model. It is anticipated that this will be issued as both a PDF and feature on the packaging.

NHS Lanarkshire have kindly shared their poster which demonstrates some suggested ways that this style of mask may be worn to ensure a secure and comfortable fit.

Fluid-Resistant (Type IIR) Surgical Face Masks (FRSM) – Ear Loop Style

These masks are one size only – which can be challenging to ensure a comfortable and secure fit. This table provides suggestions to achieve a secure and comfortable fit.

Photo of FRSM mask using fit style	Description of how to achieve fit	Photo of person wearing mask using the fit style
	<p>Secure elastic straps around ears</p> <p>Fit flexible band to nose bridge</p> <p>Fit snug to face and below chin</p>	
	<p>Put a knot in each of the elastic straps to shorten the length of the strap</p> <p>Secure elastic straps around ears</p> <p>Fit flexible band to nose bridge</p> <p>Fit snug to face and below chin</p>	
	<p>Make a loop in the elastic strap (at both sides) and put around ears to shorten the length of the strap</p> <p>Fit flexible band to nose bridge</p> <p>Fit snug to face and below chin</p>	
	<p>Make a loop in the elastic strap position over ears – this will give an 'X' shaped in the straps on the side of the face</p> <p>Fit flexible band to nose bridge</p> <p>Fit snug to face and below chin</p>	
	<p>Pull the straps to the back of the head, secure with button band, hair clip or hair band</p> <p>Fit flexible band to nose bridge</p> <p>Fit snug to face and below chin</p>	