



Derby City Council

Children with Hearing Impairment returning to school

EQUIPMENT CHECK PROCEDURE – CV19 TEMPORARY GUIDANCE

- When children return to school we anticipate that most hearing aids will be fine as long as working batteries are put in and ear moulds are still a good fit.
- Ask the child's parents to check equipment before they send their child to school.
- During this period of heightened concern cleaning of all types of personal hearing devices whenever possible should be done at home. Here is a link with advice about cleaning hearing aids to share with parents if they need it:
<https://www.truehearing.com/more-resources/clean-care-hearing-aids/>

Each child is different. School staff (and STePS Advisory Teachers) should speak to parents about the approach being taken.

Checking Hearing Aids (HAs) and Cochlear Implant Processors (CIs) in School

If a child is wearing a cochlear implant processor, these are usually well checked by parents.

See above, if the parent has checked the hearing aid/ cochlear implant – and you are confident of this – there is no need to recheck it in school.

If the parent is unable to check the equipment themselves then:

- If the child can correctly reinsert their hearing aids or cochlear implants, carry out their own personal equipment checks and attach their receivers themselves then provide them with somewhere quiet/ suitable within the school to do this.
- If a child is very close to being able to do it themselves, consider guiding them through the process from a distance (to avoid touching the device as much as possible).
- If a child can remove the hearing aid/ cochlear implant but cannot check it or reinsert it then ask the child to leave the HI/ CI on a table for the adult to return/ collect after checking. Encourage them to reinsert the hearing aid as far as they can, talking them through the final part of tucking the top of the ear mould under the skin cartilage at the top of the ear.
- Only if the child cannot manage to do it themselves, even with remote support should you reinsert it for them.

Specialist Teaching and Psychology Service / People's Department
derby.gov.uk

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If you need to check a child's hearing aid or cochlear implant for them:

Best Approach: sit with HI child in a quiet room with a sink, wash your hands immediately prior to handling HA/CI and immediately afterwards and ask the child to do the same

Next Best Approach: when it is not possible to find a quiet room with a sink – wash your hands before going into the room and then, when in the room, use alcohol gel to clean your hands immediately prior to handling the HA/CI and again immediately afterwards and ask the child to do the same OR wear gloves

General points:

- Throughout the check – sit apart as much as possible unless the child needs help to remove or reinsert the HA/CI. Keep contact to the minimum possible.
- If using gloves these will need to be safely disposed of (identify somewhere suitable).
- Handwashing should be thorough and in line with government guidance
- This should not be undertaken when/ if the child or the adult is coughing or sneezing
- When carrying out daily listening checks and fitting/removing radio aid receivers staff must follow safe hygiene practice in line with the latest government guidance

Masks

Whilst the government guidance advises that the only time when PPE should be worn routinely in schools is for intimate care and provided the same way as before – we are concerned that consideration has not been given to the particular issue of hearing aids/ cochlear implants. If you do need to check and reinsert a child's hearing aid or cochlear implant we would recommend wearing a mask. See above – this would be a last resort. Ideally the parent or the child themselves will do it themselves.

Cleaning the Hearing Aid/ Cochlear Implant

- No products containing ethanol or bleach should be used on a cochlear implant or hearing aid
- Particular care is needed around the openings and the mic (see manufacturers guidelines)
- Only use wipes that have a water based disinfectant e.g. Phonak Cleaning and care wipes are manufacturer recommended
<https://www.connevans.co.uk/catalogue/9907595/Cleaning-tissues---wipes>

Cleaning Radio Aid Systems

- No products containing ethanol or bleach should be used on a radio aid.
- When passing the transmitter between users the transmitter and lanyard need to be wiped with 70% alcohol wipes.
- Avoid the microphones, the seams in the plastic, and the power connectors. Clean the mute button and the power button carefully.

- When cleaning the lanyard pay particular attention to the clip at the back and the leather pull tab
- The handling of a radio aid is like any other piece of shared equipment in school. Limit the number of people touching it and wash your hands before and after handling it.

Note: Schools will need alcohol gel, gloves, wipes and masks

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Top Tips for supporting HI children back to school

- Think distance!
- Think visual!
- Think noise!
- Check technology!