

Disinfecting Radio Aids Guidance for schools

The handling of a radio aid is like any other piece of shared equipment in school, eg pass around items such as rulers, pens, calculators etc or shared items like door handles.

The most effective protection during this time is to follow the World Health Organization (WHO) and NHS guidelines of washing hands regularly, especially after handling items handled by others. **Prevention is the most effective solution.**

<https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/covid-19-coronavirus>

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/healthy-body/best-way-to-wash-your-hands/>

https://www.who.int/gpsc/clean_hands_protection/en/

<https://www.bcig.org.uk/manufacturers-safety-guidelines/>

It is however, good practice to follow additional hygiene guidelines when using equipment. Therefore, a sanitisation step when switching users is strongly recommended.

Recommended method of disinfecting

- Before handling the device or any of its accessories, wash your hands.
- Use proprietary pre-moistened anti-septic cleaning wipes, or a disposable towel sprayed with disinfectant.
- To disinfect devices, use proprietary pre-moistened cleaning wipes, or paper towels or cotton swabs with
 - 60-70% ethanol (alcohol) solution, or;
 - “iso solution”, a mixture of de-ionized water and 60-70% isopropyl alcohol (isopropanol), or;
 - 3% hydrogen peroxide solution.
- Remove heavy dirt and stains on the device’s surface with paper towels and cotton swabs, which are soaked with iso solution, or proprietary cleaning wipes.
- Moisten the surface of the device carefully. Do not apply too much liquid on the surface as this may damage the device.
- Do not apply to microphone cover(s) or openings, near seams in the plastic, or to battery or power connectors. This may damage electronic components.
- Dispose of the wipe/paper towel in the bin.

For further advice please contact the Sensory Service via phone: 028 25 661 258 or email: sensoryservice@eani.org.uk

- Let the liquid dry on the device's surface. Do not wipe dry immediately as the cleaning fluid needs time to act on the surface to have a better disinfecting effect.
- Do not use a disinfectant with skin emollients which are often found in hand sanitizers.
- Never directly spray disinfectant onto the device.
- Do not use bleach.
- Never immerse the device in disinfectant.
- While wiping the device, and for as long as the device is still wet, do not press any buttons.
- Remember to wipe lanyards between uses also.
- Wash your hands after disinfecting the device.

This document has been compiled using best and current advice as referenced below. For further advice please contact the Sensory Service via phone: 028 25 661 258 or email: sensoryservice@eani.org.uk

References

Cleaning hearing devices and radio aids - supporting health and safety during Covid v4.pdf-19 *BATOD & Assistive Listening Technology Working Group*

<https://www.batod.org.uk/resource/suggested-resources-from-batod-members/>

<https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/> <https://www.hearinglikeme.com/how-to-clean-your-hearing-technology/>

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