

## \*[CHOOSE] Radio Aids/hearing aids/cochlear implant processors and COVID19 - Advice on Management and Cleaning when Returning to School

### For families:

#### **General advice**

- Please support children in managing their own hearing equipment as much as possible to minimise times when school staff will need to help.
- Please check each morning that the device is working and is fully charged/has a reliable battery.
- For hearing aids using disposable batteries, we recommend changing the battery once every two weeks although this might be weekly for some hearing aids.

#### **Manufacturer's guidance for cleaning hearing aids and Cochlear Implants**

- Guidance does not consider extra cleaning to be necessary, unless you feel the device may have been contaminated.
- The table below gives a summary of advice but it is recommended that you consult the more specific advice given here: <https://www.batod.org.uk/uk-assistive-listening-technology-working-group-and-batod-joint-advice/>

#### \*[DELETE THE ROWS THAT YOU DO NOT NEED]

Device	How to clean it	Which chemical?
<i>Oticon</i> Hearing Aids	No specific advice – use a disinfectant wipe.	Not specified
<i>Phonak</i> Hearing Aids	Use a small brush to clean every two days. To disinfect, Phonak recommends the use of their own C&C wipes.	Not specified other than saying their own C&C wipes are recommended. These use a quaternary ammonium solution.
<i>Cochlear Baha</i> Bone-conduction hearing aids	These are not waterproof. Use a moist wipe and dry thoroughly.	<b>The alcohol cleaner must be made of 60-70% isopropanol. DO NOT USE ethanol as it may damage the processor.</b>
Other Bone-conduction devices	These are not waterproof. Use a moist wipe and dry thoroughly.	Not specified.
<i>Advanced Bionics</i> Cochlear Implant Processors	Use alcohol solution or a wipe. Dry thoroughly before turning on. Do not submerge in or saturate with solution. Do not clean over microphones or seams.	Alcohol cleaner (60-70% solution ethanol OR isopropanol).

Hearing and Vision Support Services are provided on behalf of Dorset Council and Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council

Cochlear Cochlear Implant Processors	Use a solution or a wipe. Dry thoroughly before turning on. Do not submerge in or saturate with solution. Do not clean over microphones.  If the device is a <i>Cochlear Kanzo</i> , use only Hydrogen Peroxide.	Hydrogen Peroxide (3% solution for household use) OR Alcohol cleaner (60-70% solution ethanol OR isopropanol).
Medel Cochlear Implant Processors	Use a solution or a wipe. Dry thoroughly before turning on. Do not submerge in or saturate with solution. Do not clean over microphones.	Use cleaning wipes saturated with a solution of 70% isopropanol alcohol and 30% deionized water. If such wipes are not available use dry wipes and dip them into a similar cleaning fluid.

### For schools:

#### **General advice**

- Keep as close as social distancing will allow.
- Make sure your mouth can be seen to aid lip-reading.
- Keep background noise to a minimum.
- Use pictures and objects to illustrate what you are saying as much as possible.
- If children require assistance to manage their hearing aids or cochlear implant processors, please discuss with families how this will be managed with regards to the current advice on social distancing and hygiene (see above for disinfecting procedures).


#### **Radio Aids**

- Clean the radio aid transmitter when receiving it from the pupil or passing from one speaker to another – any disinfectant wipe will be acceptable, avoiding bleach.
- Be careful not to make the microphones wet as this will muffle or distort the sound making it unusable (see images in the diagram below – avoid red areas).
- Be careful not to make buttons and ‘seams’ between components overly wet.
- Allow the device to dry before switching it on.
- Wipe the lanyard if one is used and wash/sanitize your hands.


#### **\*[CHOOSE ONE OF THESE TRANSMITTER OPTIONS]**

- The pupil uses a **Roger Pen transmitter**.
  - It *can* be placed horizontally on the teacher’s desk and it will work in conference mode. This means the teacher will not have to touch the radio aid but will need to stay within 2m of the device when talking to the pupil (see diagram below).
  - It can be pointed at the person speaking but they will need to stay within 4m of the device


Radio Aid Transmitter Name	Microphone Location	Can be used in Conference Mode?	Can be used to point at who is speaking?	Can be worn without a lanyard?
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Phonak Roger Pen		Yes – lay it down as pictured with the microphone uppermost. Stay within 2m.	Yes – but person speaking will need to stay within 4m.	No.
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- The pupil uses a **Roger Touchscreen transmitter**.
  - It *can* be placed horizontally on the teacher’s desk and it will work in conference mode. This means the teacher will not have to touch the radio aid but will need to stay within 2m of the device when talking to the pupil (see diagram below).

Radio Aid Transmitter Name	Microphone Location	Can be used in Conference Mode?	Can be used to point at who is speaking?	Can be worn without a lanyard?
Phonak Roger Touchscreen		Yes – lay it down with the screen facing up. Stay within 2m.	No.	No.


- The pupil uses a **Roger Inspiro transmitter**.
  - It can be used with a pocket clip so that a lanyard does not have to be worn if preferred

Radio Aid Transmitter Name	Microphone Location	Can be used in Conference Mode?	Can be used to point at who is speaking?	Can be worn without a lanyard?
Phonak Roger Inspiro		No.	No.	Yes – pocket clip option for main body with microphone clipped below chin.


- The pupil uses a **Phonak Easylink transmitter**.
  - It *can* be placed horizontally on the teacher’s desk and it will work in conference mode. This means the teacher will not have to touch the radio aid but will need to stay within 2m of the device when talking to the pupil (see diagram below).
  - It can be pointed at the person speaking but they will need to stay within 4m of the device

Radio Aid Transmitter Name	Microphone Location	Can be used in Conference Mode?	Can be used to point at who is speaking?	Can be worn without a lanyard?
Phonak EasyLink		Yes – lay it down with the screen up or down. Stay within 2m.	Yes – but person speaking will need to stay within 4m.	No.


- The pupil uses a **Phonak Zoomlink transmitter**.
  - It *can* be placed horizontally on the teacher's desk and it will work in conference mode *once the button marked with a circle is pushed*. This means the teacher will not have to touch the radio aid but will need to stay within 2m of the device when talking to the pupil (see diagram below).
  - It can be pointed at the person speaking *once the short-dash button has been pressed* but they will need to stay within 4m of the device

Radio Aid Transmitter Name	Microphone Location	Can be used in Conference Mode?	Can be used to point at who is speaking?	Can be worn without a lanyard?
Phonak ZoomLink		Yes – <b>press the lower of the three buttons (circle)</b> , lay it down with the screen up or down. Stay within 2m.	Yes – <b>press the upper of the three buttons (short dash)</b> and point it at the person speaking who needs to be within 4m.	No.

- The pupil uses a **Phonak Smartlink transmitter**.
  - It *can* be placed horizontally on the teacher's desk and it will work in conference mode *once the button marked with a circle is pushed*. This means the teacher will not have to touch the radio aid but will need to stay within 2m of the device when talking to the pupil (see diagram below).
  - It can be pointed at the person speaking *once the microphone beam button has been pressed* but they will need to stay within 4m of the device


Radio Aid Transmitter Name	Microphone Location	Can be used in Conference Mode?	Can be used to point at who is speaking?	Can be worn without a lanyard?
Phonak SmartLink		Yes – <b>press the lower of the three buttons</b> , lay it down with the screen up or down. Stay within 2m.	Yes – <b>press the upper of the three buttons</b> and point it at the person speaking who needs to be within 4m.	No.

- The pupil uses an **Oticon Amigo transmitter**.
  - It can be used with a pocket clip so that a lanyard does not have to be worn if preferred


Radio Aid Transmitter Name	Microphone Location	Can be used in Conference Mode?	Can be used to point at who is speaking?	Can be worn without a lanyard?
Oticon Amigo		No	No	Yes – pocket clip option for main body with microphone clipped below chin

- The pupil uses a **Minimic 2+ transmitter**.

- It *can* be placed horizontally on the teacher’s desk and it will work in conference mode. This means the teacher will not have to touch the radio aid but will need to stay within 2m of the device when talking to the pupil (see diagram below).
- It can be used with a pocket clip so that a lanyard does not have to be worn if preferred

Radio Aid Transmitter Name	Microphone Location	Can be used in Conference Mode?	Can be used to point at who is speaking?	Can be worn without a lanyard?
Mini-mic 2+		Yes – lay it down as pictured with the microphone uppermost. Stay within 2m.	No.	Yes – can be clipped directly to clothing below chin.

- The pupil uses a Genie transmitter.
  - It can be used with a pocket clip (or even worn inside a pocket) provided a satellite microphone is worn so that a lanyard does not have to be worn if preferred

Radio Aid Transmitter Name	Microphone Location	Can be used in Conference Mode?	Can be used to point at who is speaking?	Can be worn without a lanyard?
Genie		No	No	Yes – pocket clip option for main body with satellite microphone clipped below chin.

**Remember - The best protection is regular and thorough hand hygiene.**

**For support or information, please contact your Advisory Teacher from the Hearing Support Service**