



## HEALTH AND SAFETY ADVICE PERTINENT TO MANAGING HEARING AIDS AND FM IN SCHOOL DURING COVID19 RESTRICTIONS

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The advice from SIS before schools closed was for school and any visiting SIS staff **not** to undertake their usual hearing aid check / maintenance processes. As we return to school this **continues** to be the advice. Families have been made aware of this approach and there is an expectation that hearing aid systems have been checked and working before children come to a setting. Families should have the necessary equipment at home to undertake these tasks. SIS will continue to support families in this work. This is to ensure that social distancing is maintained in line with national guidance whilst ensuring the SEND needs of CYP are met. This way of working is considered a short term solution while SIS work alongside schools to support the risk assessment of these processes and will work towards re-establishing checking protocols in schools.

PLEASE NOTE: **This is NOT a risk assessment.** Settings should use this guidance to write their own risk assessments pertinent to their particular settings and associated risks for hearing impaired students.

*This advice is pertinent to the child/young person's hearing loss and should be read in conjunction with and to inform the School's/visit location's own risk assessments.*

AREA OF CONCERN:	CONTROL MEASURES	PLEASE ENSURE THAT:	ADDITIONAL ADVICE:
<p><b>CYP indicates/staff suspect that 1 of 1 hearing aid not working</b></p>	<p>CYP to remove aid and place in suitable bag or container.</p> <p>School store in suitable place until end of day.</p> <p>Parents are informed that aid may not be working.</p>	<p>School liaise with SIS and parents to ascertain safety of CYP remaining in school unaided (depending on function of unaided ear and level of loss in aided ear).</p> <p>SIS to liaise with parents to try to solve the problem with the aid.</p>	<p>If unaided CYP is to go home for personal safety, named adult to supervise child/young person in safe place until family can collect, maintaining appropriate distancing guidelines. Be aware of fire alarms and emergency procedures with unaided CYP.</p> <p><b>If staff have to handle the hearing aid they should wear suitable gloves, follow hand hygiene, shared equipment and direct care guidelines issued by Local Authority.</b></p>
<p><b>CYP indicates/staff suspect that 1 of 2 hearing aids not working</b></p>	<p>CYP to remove aid and place in suitable bag or container.</p> <p>School store in suitable place until end of day.</p>	<p>SIS to liaise with parents to try to solve the problem with the aid at the end of the day.</p>	<p><b>If staff have to handle the hearing aid they should wear suitable gloves, follow hand hygiene, shared equipment and direct care guidelines issued by Local Authority.</b></p>
<p><b>CYP indicates/staff suspect that 2 of 2 hearing aids not working</b></p>	<p>CYP to remove aids and place in suitable bag or container.</p> <p>School should contact SIS to see if the problem can be resolved virtually.</p> <p>If not possible, <i>school</i> store in suitable place until end of day.</p> <p>Parents are informed that aids may not be working.</p>	<p>School liaise with SIS and parents to ascertain safety of CYP remaining in school unaided (depending on level of hearing loss and access to sound when not aided).</p> <p>SIS to liaise with parents to try to solve the problem with the aids.</p>	<p>If unaided CYP is to go home for personal safety, named adult to supervise child/young person in safe place until family can collect, maintaining appropriate distancing guidelines. Be aware of fire alarms and emergency procedures with unaided CYP.</p> <p><b>If staff have to handle the hearing aid they should wear suitable gloves, follow hand hygiene, shared equipment and direct care guidelines issued by Local Authority.</b></p>

<p><b>Hearing aid falls out and CYP cannot get it back in</b></p>	<p>If staff feel CYP can continue to access information, aid/s to be safely stored by the child / staff and refitted by parents at end of school day.</p>	<p>If possible parents contacted and parents attend school to refit aids in a place considered safe by the school.</p>	<p>If unaided CYP is to go home for personal safety, named adult to supervise child/young person in safe place until family can collect, maintaining appropriate distancing guidelines. Be aware of fire alarms and emergency procedures with unaided CYP.</p> <p><b>If staff have to handle the hearing aid they should wear suitable gloves, follow hand hygiene, shared equipment and direct care guidelines issued by Local Authority.</b></p>
<p><b>Earmould or tube or FM receiver becomes detached</b></p>	<p>CYP to remove aids and components and place in suitable bag or container.</p> <p>If staff feel CYP can continue to access information, aid/s to be safely stored by the child / staff and refitted by parents at end of school day.</p>	<p>With younger CYP it may be necessary for staff to remove earmould if aid has become detached. If this is the case <b>they should wear suitable gloves and follow hand hygiene and any other direct care guidelines issued by Local Authority.</b></p> <p>If possible parents contacted and parents attend school to refit aids in a place considered safe by the school.</p>	<p><b>If staff have to handle the hearing aid or mould they should wear suitable gloves, follow hand hygiene, shared equipment and direct care guidelines issued by Local Authority.</b></p>

<p><b>Blow to the head on site of aid/CI</b></p>	<p>CYP to remove aids and any damaged components and place in suitable bag or container.</p> <p>If CYP is injured and unable to remove meaning that <b>staff have to handle the hearing aid they should wear suitable gloves, follow hand hygiene, shared equipment and direct care guidelines issued by Local Authority.</b></p>	<p>School Health and Safety Procedures are followed.</p> <p>Refer to Cochlear implant Safety Guidelines if appropriate.</p> <p>School liaise with SIS and parents to ascertain safety of CYP remaining in school unaided (depending on level of hearing loss and access to sound when not aided).</p> <p>SIS to liaise with parents to try to solve the problem with the aids.</p>	<p>Inform parent and seek advice from Teacher of the Deaf if appropriate.</p>
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### MANAGING FM

#### DISCLAIMER

As with any solid material, FM systems should be thoroughly wiped following the same safety guidance as recommended for other materials.

However, please note that there is specific advice for how to clean FM systems during this period which SIS can provide:

In addition, please be aware of risk associated with:

- close proximity of transmitter to user's mouth
- lanyard around neck/body clip
- some receivers need to be attached to hearing aids and removed at the end of the day
- small parts e.g. microphone covers, buttons etc can be difficult to clean
- need to transfer FM between adults

The following advice is designed to supplement current Government and Local Authority advice on the use of shared equipment when considering FM use.

AREA OF CONCERN:	CONTROL MEASURES	PLEASE ENSURE THAT:	ADDITIONAL ADVICE:
<b>FM system is stored in school and is refitted each day and will be used by different staff members</b>	Parents fit and check the FM (and attach receivers if necessary) in a place considered safe by the school at the beginning of the school day. Transmitter should be wiped <b>in line with school processes/national guidelines on shared equipment.</b>	At the end of the school day, CYP to remove FM device (and receivers if necessary). Parents to assist as necessary in a place considered safe by the school.  Device to be wiped with cleaning agent and stored. Please see manufacturers cleaning guide.	<b>Staff should wear suitable gloves, follow hand hygiene, shared equipment and direct care guidelines issued by Local Authority.</b>  <b>SIS to provide manufacturers device specific cleaning processes.</b>
<b>FM transmitter is stored at home and brought into school each day and will be used by different staff members</b>	On arrival at school FM system passed to named adult. If receivers are detachable parents to attach at home. <b>Staff to follow school processes/national guidelines on shared equipment.</b>	At the end of the school day, CYP to remove FM device. Device to be wiped with disinfectant wipes. Staff to follow school processes/national guidelines on shared equipment and suitable bag used when handling/ sending home.	<b>Staff should wear suitable gloves, follow hand hygiene, shared equipment and direct care guidelines issued by Local Authority.</b>  <b>SIS to provide manufacturers device specific cleaning processes.</b>
<p>1. <b>NB</b> When wiping the FM transmitter please avoid over-wetting, particularly microphone covers, the seams in the plastic and the power connectors. Clean the mute button and the power button very carefully, along with lanyard/clip.</p> <p>2. Allow the equipment to air dry to maximize the disinfecting effect.</p> <p><b>Wipes used should be water based disinfectant solutions or a solution with 70% Isopropanol in line with Local Authority guidelines.</b></p>			

