

# Infection Prevention and Control for Audiology Equipment

This document is intended to provide information specific to audiology clinical practices. It does not constitute legal advice. The intent is to provide guidance to disinfect equipment used in audiology.

EQUIPMENT	REMOVE	DISCONNECT	DISINFECT	SANITIZE	REPLACE	RECOMMENDATIONS
<b>Audiometers</b>	All disposables.	Power source before cleaning.	All non-disposable parts in direct contact with the patient between patients with alcohol-free disinfectant. See EPA list of disinfectants for use against COVID-19. See Recommendations.	Disinfect the audiometer between users. Be sure to include often-used buttons.		See Notes section at bottom of document.
<b>Real-Ear Measurements (REM)</b>	All disposables.	Power source before cleaning.	All non-disposable parts that are in direct contact with the patient with alcohol wipe (include the probe module body, cable, and red and blue lanyard).	Hearing instruments prior to placement in the test chamber, per manufacturer suggestions.	Putty used with HA-1 after each use.	See Notes section at bottom of document.
			Black rubber adapters with <b>alcohol-free</b> wipe.	The case with mild soap.		
			Couplers with <b>alcohol</b> .			
			The case with <b>alcohol</b> .			
<b>Immittance</b>	All disposables.	Power source before cleaning.	All non-disposable parts (cables, headset cushions, etc.) between patients with <b>alcohol-free</b> wipes or disinfectant.			See Notes section at bottom of document.
			LCD touchscreens (use a wipe containing up to <b>0.05% hydrogen peroxide or other similar product</b> to clean LCD or UV light).			
<b>Otoacoustic Emissions (OAE)</b>	All disposables.	Power source before cleaning.	All non-disposable parts of the system between patients with <b>alcohol-free</b> wipes or disinfectant.			See Notes section at bottom of document.
<b>Auditory Brainstem Response (ABR)</b>	All disposables.	Power source before cleaning.	All non-disposable parts that were in direct contact with the patient with <b>alcohol-free</b> wipes or disinfectant.			See Notes section at bottom of document.
<b>Videonystagmography (VNG) Testing</b>	All disposables.	Power source before cleaning.	All non-disposable VNG equipment and accessories that were in direct contact with the patient with <b>alcohol-free</b> wipes or disinfectant.			See Notes section at bottom of document.
			The exterior of the VNG testing device. For this, we recommend cleaning the exterior of the device with a lint-free cloth soaked in an <b>alcohol</b> solution.			
<b>VNG Goggles</b>	All disposables.	Power source before cleaning.	For the silicone/rubber and strap, apply duct tape or use an alcohol-free solution from the EPA-approved list.	Wash lenses with a solution of mild soap and warm water using a cotton ball. Rinse. Dry with a cotton ball.		Use bouffant cap over the patient's hair/head, when possible.
						Alternatively, wrap the strap with duct tape. Velcro should not touch the patient. If available, use disposable foam goggle pads.  See Notes section at bottom of document.
<b>Video Head Impulse Test (vHIT) Equipment</b>	All disposables.	Power source before cleaning.		The goggles' frame and tubing after each patient with <b>alcohol-free</b> germicidal wipes that are on the EPA-approved list.	The elastics between patients.	Use a bouffant cap on the patient's head as a physical barrier.
				The strap with mild detergent and warm water. Let it dry completely.		Spare straps are available from the distributor.  See Notes section at bottom of document.
				The lenses with warm water and mild soap <b>only</b> . Dry with a cotton ball.		

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(continued)

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<b>Vestibular Evoked Myogenic Potential (VEMP) Equipment</b>	All disposables.	Power source before cleaning.	Cords from insert earphones with <b>alcohol-free</b> solution from EPA-approved list.	Nondisposable leads with <b>an alcohol-free</b> solution from the EPA-approved list.		Use fully disposable single-use electrodes and leads.  See Notes section at bottom of document.
<b>Computerized Dynamic Posturography (CDP)</b>	All disposables.	Power source before cleaning.	Platform after each patient, using a cleaning solution from EPA-approved list.			Consider using a polyethylene isolation gown or other barrier to prevent transmission to the fabric portion of the safety harness.
						Use shoe covers on the platform.  See Notes section at bottom of document.
<b>Rotary Chair</b>	All disposables.	Power source before cleaning.	The rotary chair between patient use with alcohol-free disinfectant approved by your facility. See EPA list of disinfectants for use against COVID-19.			Consider using a polyethylene isolation gown or other barrier between patient and seatbelt of rotary chair.  See Notes section at bottom of document.
<b>Chairs, Counters, and Carts</b>	All disposables.	Power source before cleaning.	All chairs and work surfaces (e.g., counters, carts, keyboards, handle on irrigator, etc.) between patients, between staff use, and at the end of the day.			See Notes section at bottom of document.
<b>Sound Booth</b>	All disposables.		Exam rooms, door handles, and surfaces on exterior of booth.			<b>E3 Tele-Acoustics:</b> First, ensure that the ventilation fans are running. Between patients, wait 15 minutes before allowing the next patient to enter the booth in order to ensure a complete air exchange. Clean and disinfect all the surfaces with which the patient will come in contact by using an appropriate EPA-approved disinfectant between patients. This should include the door handles, chair, audiometer headset, bone vibrator, hand switch, and all other common surfaces. In addition, please continue to monitor and follow all of the CDC recommendations and guidelines to help protect vulnerable patients. Check with the manufacturer or distributor of your booth for information about ventilation method and airflow.
			Booth surfaces, both inside and outside.			
<b>General Facility Disinfection</b>	All disposables.	Power source before cleaning.	Every surface that a patient has been on or that a patient could have been in contact with. Do this between patients and at the end of the day.			See Notes section (below) at bottom of document.

**Notes:** Many manufacturers stated: Use an alcohol-free disinfectant approved by your facility. Quaternary ammonia compound or a hydrogen peroxide-based cleaner are recommended. These types of disinfectants are designed to disinfect rubber, plastic, silicone, and acrylic products commonly used in hearing evaluation equipment/instruments. Wait 30 seconds to 10 minutes before wiping the applied disinfectant. Follow disinfectant manufacturer's instructions. Look at the EPA list of disinfectants for use against COVID-19: <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2-covid-19>

The following manufacturers provided guidance utilized in this document. Contact the manufacturers directly to inquire about specific guidelines for your clinic and equipment: Audioscan, ETS Lindgren Booths, MAICO, GSI, and Interacoustics

For more information, please contact [audiology@asha.org](mailto:audiology@asha.org)