



# Healthy Hearing

Technology needs cleaning, too!

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We enjoy seeing our students using their hearing technology every day. Just like everything else in school, it can be exposed to a variety of germs, dirt, and sweat. Hearing technology is sensitive and expensive. It is important to make sure that it is cleaned and cared for appropriately, especially during the cold and flu season. In our overview of manufacturer's recommendations, they suggest avoiding water and commercial cleaners which can break down or damage hearing instruments.

Since our students use a variety of hearing technology from various manufacturers, we strongly encourage you to review your manufacturer website for literature on proper cleaning instructions (search "care and cleaning".) Many of these sites offer brief and practical instructional videos on care and cleaning hearing technology.

**For district purchased hearing assistive technology (Roger Pen, Roger Inspiro, and Roger Touchscreen)....**

Phonak technical support confirmed that alcohol wipes are safe to use on these products due to the quick evaporation. This recommendation is only for district hearing assistive technology and not for personal hearing instruments. Please refer to your audiologist or manufacturer for maintenance guidelines.

## Tips to Remember...

- Be sure to maintain ear hygiene – it is an ideal environment for bacteria growth – **refer to your doctor or audiologist for safe cleaning practices (Q-tips and other objects can be dangerous to the ear)**
- Daily cleaning and regular service of hearing technology is extremely important
- When not in use, keep hearing technology in a dry and safe place- consider using a cleaning device that uses UV lights to disinfect the hearing technology
- Wash your hands before **and** after handling your hearing instruments
- Disinfect the area used to clean your technology
- Protect devices from heat, water, body care products, and pets
- Contact your hearing-care professional with questions about maintenance, care products, or functionality

**Phonak** - <https://www.phonak.com>

**Oticon** - <https://www.oticon.com/>

**Starkey** - <https://www.starkey.com/>

**Cochlear** - <http://www.cochlear.com/wps/wcm/connect/us/home>