



Defense Health Agency (DHA) Clinical Communities Speaker Series

October 2021 CCSS: Promising Practices in Military Health Care

S05: Innovations to Test and Protect Hearing

Resource List

The National Hearing Conservation Association (NHCA) published [Best Practices Guidelines for Safely Conducting Hearing Testing during the COVID-19 Pandemic](#) (2020) based on the work of a Task Force which included participation from the Council for Accreditation in Occupational Hearing Conservation and Occupational Medicine Specialists. The information within the document is based on knowledge and guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), in order to provide best practice guidelines to Hearing Testing Professionals, while mitigating the risk of SARS CoV-2 infection. Parameters include screening employees for COVID-19 symptoms and exposure, use of personal protective equipment and cleaning and disinfection of hearing testing areas.

The Military Audiology Association (MAA) is an organization for active duty service members, federal civilians, or federal retirees, who are duly certified as audiologists or are graduates of an accredited college or university and is working in the field of hearing science. The association strives to advance the profession of audiology within the Department of Defense. The [MAA Resource](#) page has critical information and links that benefit military audiologists in applying their professional knowledge to military medicine.

The American Speech Language Hearing Association (ASHA) produced the [Infection Prevention and Control for Audiology Equipment](#) (n.d.) document. It is intended to provide information and guidance specific to audiology clinical practices. The document lists the types of equipment and appropriate procedures to disinfect or sanitize, and what cleaning agents are optimal.

The field of audiology became extremely relevant to the Department of Defense (DoD) after World War I and II, when the need for rehabilitation after noise-induced hearing loss (NIHL) became essential. Therefore, the DoD has led innovations in hearing conservation and audiology. It has only been within recent decades that the innovations have shifted from hearing loss prevention to hearing capabilities. [Better Hearing Health Across the Department of Defense](#) is an article published in *Audiology Today* and it reviews the Tri-Service efforts to provide medical readiness and health care delivery through hearing conservation programs and the establishment of the Hearing Center of Excellence (HCE). The article also reviews the implementation of boothless audiometry, in multiple settings including remote deployments.



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References

- American Speech Language Hearing Association (ASHA). (n.d.). Infection Prevention and Control for Audiology Equipment. <https://www.asha.org/aud/educational-audiologist-resources-for-physical-and-virtual-reopening/>
- Military Audiology Association. (2019). *Resources: Related Sites and Useful Links*. <http://militaryaudiology.org/resources/>
- Schulz, T.Y., Blank, A., Taylor, A.J., & Paul, K.S. (2020). Better Hearing Health Across the Department of Defense. *Audiology Today*, Sep/Oct Issue. <https://www.audiology.org/news-and-publications/audiology-today/articles/better-hearing-health-across-the-department-of-defense/>
- Stepkin, R., Mirza, R., Zittle, M., Tolley, C., Rink, T., & National Hearing Conversation Association. (2020). Best Practices Guidelines for Safely Conducting Hearing Testing during the COVID-19 Pandemic. <http://militaryaudiology.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/NHCA-TF-COVID-19-Guidelines.pdf>