



# COVID-19 and Hearing Implants

## Guidelines – Returning to Practice

Status Report

(Dec 12, 2020 – Feb 15, 2021)

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# Guidelines / Guidance – returning to practice

Four relevant guidance were released or with essential updates during the reporting period:

1. [AAO-HNS statement on treatment of Bell's palsy after vaccination](#) (Jan 21)

Bell's palsy was reported in 6 of nearly 34,000 patients enrolled in clinical trials of the 2 current mRNA COVID-19 vaccines. At this time, there is insufficient evidence to conclude the existence of a causal relationship between vaccination against COVID-19 and Bell's palsy.

2. [Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of mRNA COVID-19 Vaccines Currently Authorized in the United States](#) (Feb 10, 21)

Summary of recent changes:

- New recommendations for preventing, reporting, and managing mRNA COVID-19 vaccine administration errors.
- Clarification on contraindications and precautions. Persons with a known (diagnosed) allergy to PEG, another mRNA vaccine component, or polysorbate, have a contraindication to vaccination. Persons with a reaction to a vaccine or injectable therapy that contains multiple components, one of which is PEG, another mRNA vaccine component or polysorbate, but in whom it is unknown which component elicited the immediate allergic reaction have a precaution to vaccination.
- Updated information on delayed, local injection-site reactions after the first mRNA vaccine dose. These reactions are neither a contraindication or precaution to the second dose.
- Updated quarantine recommendations for vaccinated persons. Fully vaccinated persons who meet criteria will no longer be required to quarantine following an exposure to someone with COVID-19. Additional considerations for patients and residents in healthcare settings are provided.
- Additional information and updated recommendations for testing for TB infection. TB testing can be done before or at the same time as mRNA COVID-19 vaccination, or otherwise delayed for  $\geq 4$  weeks after the completion of mRNA COVID-19 vaccination.

3. [COVID-19 Updates for Audiology](#) (Hearing Journal Dec 31)

Hearing Journals have recently published several articles on reopening and infection control strategies for audiology clinics. 44 articles were included for the time from Feb 2020 till the end of the year.

4. Guidance on returning to physical activity after COVID-19 ([Salman David, Jan 8, BMJ](#))