

Safe resumption of ear syringing in the Primary Care setting

Author: Prof Philippa Tostevin (ENT Consultant)

This document is based on the ENT UK recommendations for the safe resumption of ear syringing in the primary care setting

Ear syringing is routinely performed in community settings to clear the external canal of impacted wax in the presence of an intact tympanic membrane.

This procedure should never be performed in a patient who is suspected to be or known to be covid positive.

On the assumption that the tympanic membrane is known to be intact syringing can be performed as the external ear canal does not hold the virus.

It is essential that the practitioner who performs the procedure is protected and the patient themselves. There is a chance of causing a patient to cough during the procedure who could potentially infect the practitioner. Fenestrated suction is to be avoided.

Suggested protection:

For the patient:

- A surgical face mask

For the practitioner:

- A fluid repellent mask (type IIR surgical mask)
- Plastic apron
- Eye protection in the form of visor or safety glasses
- Disposable gloves
- Bare below the elbows
- Scrubs or similar clothing

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