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Disinfecting Testing Materials

We have had many questions from our customers about disinfecting their materials.

Refer to local and national guidance as well as any guidelines from your professional association to determine if you should provide testing in person at this time. Using this health and safety guidance and your professional judgment, if you determine in-person testing is appropriate, it is important to think about how to disinfect your materials.

To learn more about this topic, refer to the [GOV.uk](https://www.gov.uk) website which provides guidelines for environmental and material disinfection in schools. Be mindful that these guidelines refer to the flu and not to COVID-19, so please always use the best and most specific information available.

Here are some practical tips for keeping materials clean and disinfected.

You can eliminate the need to have examinees touch materials in a number of ways, including:

- Printing a disposable line with dots and placing it between the stimulus book and the examinee
- Placing a transparency over stimulus book pages
- Encouraging the examinee to point rather than touch stimulus books
- Encouraging examinees without expressive issues to provide a verbal response rather than touching the stimulus book
- Offering a sanitised unsharpened pencil or something similar for the examinee to hold and use as a tool to indicate responses
 - Children may enjoy thinking of this tool as a “magic wand”.
 - You could purchase brightly colored or designed pencils and allow the child to select one for use during their evaluation.
 - The examiner should retain responsibility for turning pages of stimulus materials and allow the child to use the end of their pencil to point to their responses. At the end of the session, the child can take the pencil home.
- Adults with good executive functioning might also use a laser pointer which they should use with caution and direct only at stimuli.

Even if you can eliminate touching, ensuring materials are free of contamination is critical for health and safety reasons.

- Disinfect manipulatives, stimulus books, and response booklets carefully before and after testing, and have the examinee wash hands before and after use. Do not touch the materials yourself after they are disinfected and prepared.
- Ensure examinees do not have a latex allergy before using latex gloves. Consider using them yourself and asking the examinee to wear disposable gloves (if available).
- It is preferred that examinees not wear disposable gloves for any speeded motor production response task. If this is necessary, ensure you observe carefully and consider this in result interpretation.
- Disinfect cards and grids before and after testing, and don't place them back in the paper/cardboard box immediately after use. Instead, have on hand two (resealable sandwich bags) Ziploc™ bags: one labeled “clean” and the other labeled “dirty” for storage and later disinfection of cards.
- If possible, spray response booklets with disinfectant and let dry, or let sit in a folder labeled “Dirty”. Do not reuse response booklets.

We hope some of these ideas are helpful for customers who are choosing to continue to engage in traditional face-to-face testing at this time.

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