

Tip Sheet: FM Systems

Frequency Modulation Systems (“FM Systems”) are devices that can improve the experience of both people who wear hearing aids and those who do not. This system can be implemented anywhere that audio is being broadcast. FM Systems are beneficial as they reduce background noise and amplify the sound being transmitted so the user can hear more clearly. These devices consist of two parts: the transmitter and the receiver. The transmitter has a microphone that the speaker uses. The receiver can be directly connected to one’s hearing aids, or attached to headphones (for non-hearing aid users). FM Systems can be used almost everywhere such as movie theaters, events, classrooms, museums, churches and more due to their portability and the fact that they are easy to use.

Tips for users



Call in advance and reserve the use of equipment.

Contact the event provider or organizer to inform you if they have a system available to be used.

Confirm that the system is working and if there is someone on staff to help trouble and set up.

Hear Quebec also has made arrangements to have the organizer test our FM system so that the user can experience accessibility.

If the provider does not have a system but is interested in learning more about it, contact Hear Quebec for free consultation.

Tips for organizers



Consult with Hear Quebec prior to your event to determine what your needs are, it will save you time and energy.

Promote this accessibility feature ahead of time, your attendees will appreciate it!

As a best practice, keep track of each FM System and number them so you do not lose them.

Prior to the event:

You should verify that the FM System is capturing the live audio.

Ensure batteries on each of them to make sure one does not die during an event and keep extras on hand. Remove batteries when storing devices.

Plug the main FM System with the AUX cord to the sound mixer. It is super simple to do!

Discover some more **helpful information** about **FM systems** on the following page.



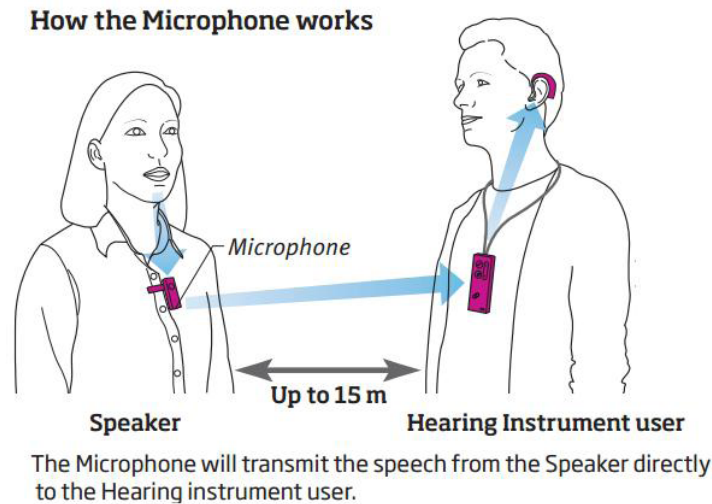
Accessibility sponsor



Find out more at hearhear.org

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There are multiple receivers and transmitters that you can use to enhance your accessibility, here is a brief list of options, speak with your acoustician or ALD provider to learn more or contact Hear Quebec for a free one on one consultation.



1

Lapel/Clip on Microphone

This type of microphone can be used on a lanyard or as a clip-on attached to the person's top. As a presenter, these are very practical as due to their small size, they can mostly be hidden to the audience. This microphone is best used in classrooms and auditoriums and needs to be plugged into a transmitter.

2

Pen or miniature style microphone

These are small and discreet microphones that you can give to the person speaking, they will transmit the sound directly to your hearing aids or headphones.

3

Personal amplifier

Amplifies sounds closest to the listener and reduces background noise. Works well for one on one conversations, can be used with or without hearing aids.

4

Body worn receiver

Used with headphones or paired with a neck loop, this can be used by both hearing aid wearers and non-wearers alike!

Was this tip sheet helpful?

Let us know here!

References

<https://www.asha.org/public/hearing/hearing-assistive-technology/#:~:text=HATS%20can%20help.,FM%20Systems,a%20signal%20to%20a%20receiver.>
<https://www.healthyhearing.com/help/assistive-listening-devices/fm-systems>
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