

RHRP Ear Exam Before Your Test

What is the testing process?

- A visual ear examination (otoscopy) is performed to inspect the ear canal and eardrum to check for blockages, wax, infections or abnormalities.
- You will receive instructions to listen for the softest beeping tones at different pitches and press a button when you detect the tone. Each ear will be tested separately.
- This is to determine your hearing thresholds across all the frequencies.
- A hearing threshold is the softest level of sound that a person can hear 50% of the time at a specific pitch (frequency) in decibels hearing level (dB HL). It is the quietest sound that you can reliably detect.

What are the benefits to testing and preparing now?

- Hearing loss often occurs gradually so you may not notice it initially.
- Even if your hearing is normal now, a test gives you a baseline (reference exam) to compare against for all future hearing exams.
- The baseline test is important for establishing a point of comparison to help identify early signs of hearing loss before you may notice any symptoms.
- The regular monitoring of hearing health encourages early use of protective gear such as earplugs or earmuffs.