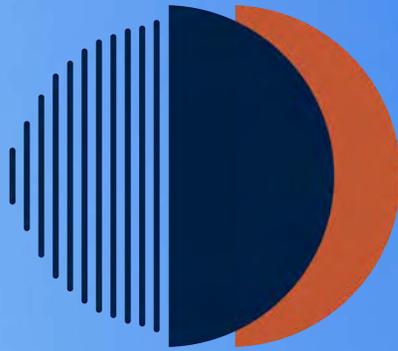


APRIL - JULY 2021



NORTHWEST  
HEARING + TINNITUS

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## A MESSAGE FROM DR. MELANIE HECKER

Hello and Happy 2021! This year has started off with a bang and I can't believe that we're already half-way through the year. We are so grateful that our patients are thriving and feeling safer with resuming life in "the new normal".

I wanted to share some highlights from the beginning of this year:

- Your favorite Audiology Assistant - **Sabrina Habib has had her beautiful baby boy!** Mom, dad and baby boy are all doing incredibly well. Please continue to hold them in your thoughts as they enjoy the first few months of parenthood - what an exciting time for a family!
- **Drs. Veith and Best** are continuing to advance their knowledge in the areas of new technology releases and tinnitus management to provide the best in care and **cutting edge technology.**
- Our newest staff member **Tamsyn Baumgartner** has been a huge blessing to the team. She's got the warmest smile (trust me on this - sorry you don't get to see it because of the mask) and heart! Her care and concern for our patients is top-notch. She's ambitious and always ready to help.
- Many insurances are now offering **INCREDIBLE BENEFITS!** We have had many patients get fully covered top tier technology with specific Regence plans and just found out that Cigna is changing their coverage to offer more to you as well. If you've been thinking of new technology and have insurance, now is the perfect time to speak with one of our doctors.
- We would like you to be informed that there is construction going on next door, which has resulted in excessive loudness and vibrations, at times. Please be aware and patient with us as we are doing our best to navigate the situation. We have been informed that the worst of this should be done by end of June 2021.

As always - we are so grateful for you and your continued loyalty. If there is anything we can do to improve your experience or offer more services, please let me know directly at [melanie@northwestaudiology.com](mailto:melanie@northwestaudiology.com)

All my best,

*Melanie Hecker, AuD*

# Meet Tamsyn

Tamsyn Baumgartner is the Patient Care Coordinator at Northwest Hearing and Tinnitus.

Tamsyn holds a Bachelor's degree in History from Western Washington University. She has years of exceptional customer care. Her goal is to create an environment of compassion, and respect, with our patients always being heard and feeling acknowledged.

She grew up in Monroe, Washington with her sister and has always called the PNW home. She enjoys reading, spending time with friends and family and cooking in her spare time.



**TAMSYN BAUMGARTNER**  
Patient Care Coordinator

## NWHT PHILANTHROPY DAYS

*by Dr. Kindra Veith, AuD*

The staff at NWH&T pride ourselves on giving back to the community and others around us. We have recently donated 51 hearing aids to a local Audiologist who will travel to Central America and fit those in need of hearing aids. We feel honored to share the gift of hearing and communication to those who otherwise would not have access to such services or devices. A few months back our staff also had the privilege of closing our doors for a day and volunteering our time at a local food bank. We sorted and organized food and personal health items at North Helpline in Lake City. It was a blast to get to know the staff there and assist with food insecurity. We always look forward to our Philanthropy Days!

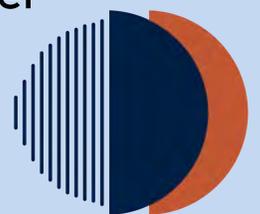




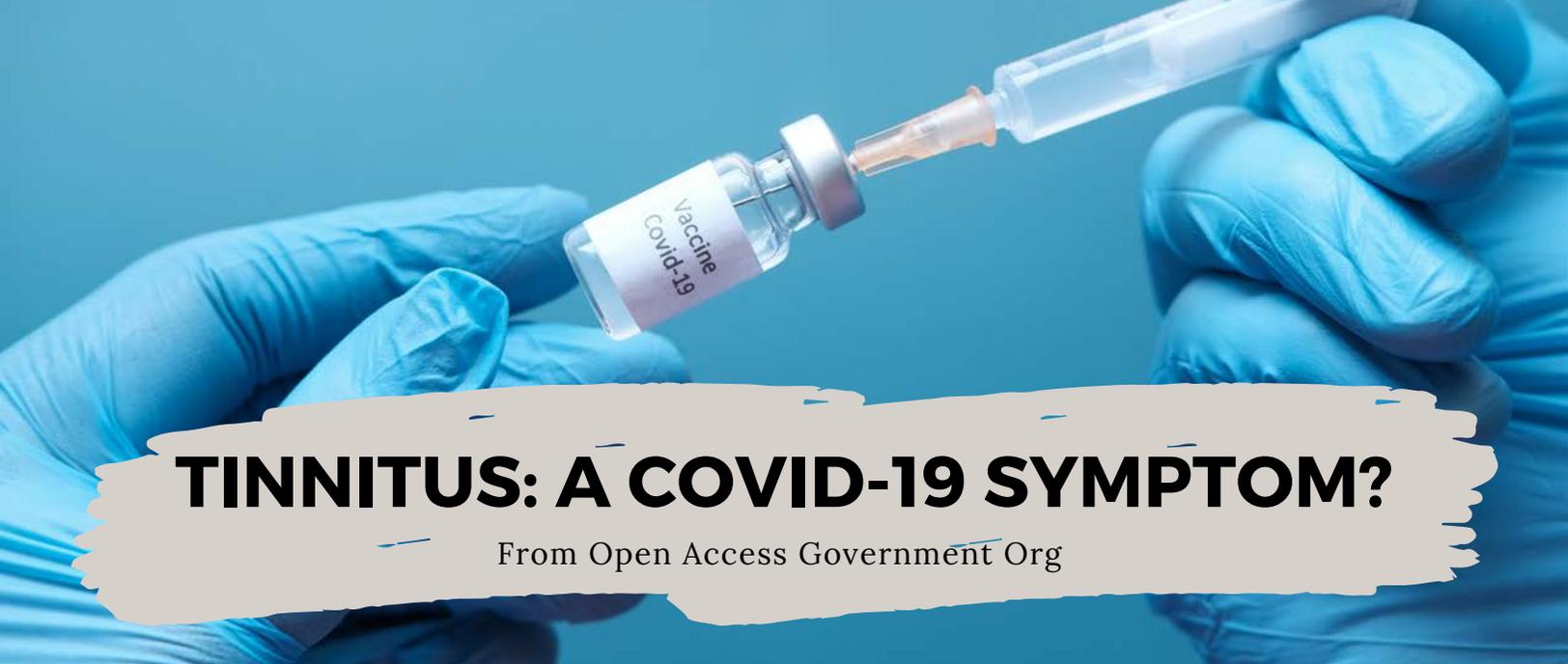
In an effort to help the most people obtain better hearing, we are now offering the following options for treatment:

1. Lease or lease-to-own technology helps break down the device costs into manageable monthly payments – PLUS, you have the option to buy or trade-in for newer technology at the end of the lease.
2. 12-month, no-interest payment plans to help break up the initial costs of new technology.
3. We would also like to let you know that we have very low-cost, high-quality refurbished devices for you to choose from. We do have a limited stock as we only carry the best and newer technology for this program.

**Call us today at (206) 367-1345**  
**so we can help you!**



NORTHWEST  
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# TINNITUS: A COVID-19 SYMPTOM?

From Open Access Government Org

Scientists reveal that tinnitus is possible COVID-19 symptom

The University of Manchester found that tinnitus could be a COVID-19 symptom – some patients of the virus are reporting a loss in hearing and ringing of the ears.

Recently, individuals have been raising concerns about hearing loss as a side effect of the COVID vaccine. There is no evidence in clinical trials or real-world data that this is a problem caused by taking the vaccine – but when it comes to COVID itself, a new story is emerging.

Now, scientists in Manchester are unearthing connections between patients of COVID and tinnitus. A long-time tinnitus sufferer explained their experience as generally painless, but said that it “impairs your hearing” and can be “irritating when it happens”.

Tinnitus is medically described as a ringing in the ears, but it also can sound like roaring, clicking, hissing, or buzzing. This can be loud or soft, high or low pitched and could impact both ears.

‘The evidence base is growing’

Professor Kevin Munro and PhD researcher Ibrahim Almufarrij looked at 56 studies that linked COVID-19 to auditory problems, like loss of hearing and ringing in the ears.

They found that 7.6% of COVID patients experienced hearing loss, while 14.8% of them experienced tinnitus. A further 7.2% experienced vertigo, a loss of balance which occurs in people with ear damage.

In a separate study, Professor Munro found that over 13% of patients who were discharged from a hospital reported a change in their hearing. The team are conducting a long one-year study to further explore the link between COVID and ear damage.

Researcher Ibrahim Almufarrij explained: “Though the evidence is of varying quality, more and more studies are being carried out so the evidence base is growing. What we really need are studies that compare COVID-19 cases with controls, such as patients admitted to hospital with other health conditions.

“Though caution needs to be taken, we hope this study will add to the weight of scientific evidence that there is a strong association between Covid-19 and hearing problems.”