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**+ TECHNOLOGY**



# Health monitor

Samsung joins forces with Deakin University to make returning to work post-Covid a safer proposition using a Galaxy Watch 4 smart watch, writes Jon Mamonski

When it comes to health workers and front-line colleagues, health screening is critical. Researchers at Deakin University's Applied Artificial Intelligence Institute, the National Trauma Research Institute and the Alfred Hospital, created the Vital Monitoring System (VMS) that uses algorithms to identify and predict respiratory risk indicators – for all respiratory illness, including Covid-19, based on a worker's vital signs and responses to health-related questions.

As Australia and the world recovers from the pandemic with front-line workers the priority and wider workforces to follow, the VMS solution has been designed to give employers and employees peace-of-mind when it comes to safely returning to the workplace.

Samsung has partnered with Deakin University, the National Trauma Research Institute (NTRI) and SaniteX Global to launch the Vital Monitoring System (VMS) on Samsung's Galaxy Watch 4 for a safe and convenient Covid health screening solution. VMS is available via the international

Internet platform – re-open.com. The VMS solution works with the worker receiving an SMS message every morning before work, which links to an observation survey, where they're asked screening questions and questions about their vital symptoms. This includes temperature, SpO2, heart rate, Covid-19 symptoms – including body aches, headaches or a sore throat – and whether they have been in close contact with anyone who has had, or shown symptoms of having Covid-19.

The Galaxy Watch 4 is equipped with Samsung's BioActive Sensor, a new 3-in-1 sensor that uses a single chip to precisely run three powerful health sensors – Optical Heart Rate, Electrical Heart and Bio-electrical Impedance Analysis. This allows users to monitor their heart rate, blood oxygen level and calculate their body composition for general health and wellness purposes.

Integrating the solution into Samsung's Galaxy Watch 4 allows users to carry out the questionnaire using their watch, designed to automatically measure SpO2 and Heart Rate and apply that to the screening questions. If the user passes the screening they will

receive a QR code which will grant them access to the workplace.

"In order for the VMS solution to have the scale and usability that we want it to, we need to meet people where they are on their favourite platforms and with a seamless ease-of-use," says Professor Kon Mouzakis from Deakin University. "Samsung's Galaxy Watch 4 is a perfect device for us to partner with, given its health tracking capabilities and we're delighted that both current and prospective Galaxy Watch users will be able to utilise their device for VMS screening."

The Galaxy Watch 4 is also equipped with blood pressure tracking and TGA approved electrocardiogram (ECG) monitoring which allows users to take an electrocardiogram reading to display their heart rhythm and is bolstered with incredible hardware performance and delivers a more seamless and connected user experience. The new devices have been completely redesigned to provide consumers with the best tools to manage their wellness.

The Galaxy Watch 4 series has launched in Australia and is available in both LTE and Bluetooth variants. They retail from \$399.



**REVIEW**  
WIRELESS EAR BUDS

The battle for supremacy is on with premium wireless - In Ear Monitors (IEMs) or simply wireless ear buds to us mere mortals and they are fighting it out for top spot. Charging carry cases and Automatic Noise Cancelling (ANC) have gone up a notch with a higher degree of artificial intelligence. Comfort and sound quality have better benchmarks since our last review (Winter 2018). Here's how they fare.



**WINNERS**

**Best value**

**BOSE Quiet Comfort**  
When it comes the combination of comfort, design, sound and price, BOSE Quiet Comfort is the winner.

**Runner up**

**Sony WF-1000MX4**  
Lots of personalised features with superb sound and noise cancelling but edged out on price.

**Best Sound**

**Sennheiser Momentum 2**  
For sound purists, the Momentum 2 earbuds are the best with a premium price to match.

**Best for your ears**

**Nuheara IQ2 Max**  
Our ear listening capacity is often not equal. The IQ2 Max precisely delivers the sound each of your ears need and supports hearing through noisy room conversation to boot.



**APPLE AIRPODS 3**

**Sound** ★★★ **Comfort** ★★★★★  
**Battery** ★★★ **Noise AI** ★★★★★  
**Price** \$250

Apple's new third generation AirPods 3 have accumulated improvements from its predecessors with better noise AI but is seriously challenged for sound quality and battery life by its similar priced rivals.



**BOSE QUIET COMFORT EARBUDS**

**Sound** ★★★★★ **Comfort** ★★★★★  
**Battery** ★★★★★ **Noise AI** ★★★★★  
**Price** \$295

BOSE has poured its years of ear sound and design experience into this model with all-day comfort in all weather. The sound is also top notch.



**NUHEARA IQ2 MAX BUDS**

**Sound** ★★★★★ **Comfort** ★★★★★  
**Battery** ★★★★★ **Noise AI** ★★★★★  
**Price** \$399

Designed in Australia, Nuheara is CES 2021 'Company of the Year' and was awarded *TIME* magazine's Best Invention Award for the world's smartest earbuds. Unlike other earbuds, the IQ2 Max takes you through an 'Ear ID' test process to profile the sound precisely to your ears. The ANC is also completely personalised with emphasis on hearing speech over ambient noise in SINC mode. Definitely worth the asking price.



**SENNHEISER MOMENTUM TRUE WIRELESS 2**

**Sound** ★★★★★ **Comfort** ★★★★★  
**Battery** ★★★★★ **Noise AI** ★★★★★  
**Price** \$499

This German audio company knows how to make great headphones. These are among the best-sounding true wireless earbuds you can currently buy, beating the Apple AirPods for sound quality and battery life but be prepared to pay a lot extra.



**SAMSUNG GALAXY BUDS PRO**

**Sound** ★★★★★ **Comfort** ★★★★★  
**Battery** ★★★ **Noise AI** ★★★★★  
**Price** \$299

A superb compact design. It's a major upgrade in audio and wireless capabilities over the Galaxy Buds Live and the perfect companion for podcasts and Galaxy phones.



**SONY WF-1000MX4**

**Sound** ★★★★★ **Comfort** ★★★★★  
**Battery** ★★★★★ **Noise AI** ★★★★★  
**Price** \$389

Three generations on and the Sony MX4s are high quality and great sounding earbuds with the new Sony V1 audio processor as well as a bundle of personalised features.



**JABRA ELITE 85T**

**Sound** ★★★★★ **Comfort** ★★★★★  
**Battery** ★★★★★ **Noise AI** ★★★★★  
**Price** \$285

This Jabra model supersedes the 65T then the 75T with longer battery life (20 hours) 2 extra mic's and a 12mm driver versus the previous 6mm. A strong contender.



TCL Mini LED TV takes on the giants

Knocking on the door of the world's top TV makers (Samsung, LG, Sony and Hisense) is TCL, who have taken the "good – different" approach to TV design. An early adopter of mini-LED technology, TCL uses thousands in 160 back light zones to create a startlingly bright 'OLED – like' TV image in this 65-inch model C825. While the frame is thicker than an OLED screen, TCL cleverly houses a rear bass driver on the back that in combination with the front two-way speakers, gives a much fuller sound than many other brands. The operating system is Android TV with all your favourite streaming channels and there's a small camera you can slot in the top of the frame for gesture control and family Google Meet/Duo sessions - with auto disable when not in use. Both Google Assistant and Alexa are on board and the screen's HDR10+ technology control is the best available. There's also top creds for gamers with HDMI 2.1 inputs supporting 4K/120 refresh for the latest game consoles. At \$2495 the TCL C825 65-inch TV shaves \$1,000 off its OLED rivals and deserves your serious consideration. Available now at your favourite retailer.