

# Masks and Communication



Masks and social distancing make communication tough for people who are hard of hearing or deaf. Masks muffle speech and block facial expressions and lip movement needed for speech reading. When you are communicating with someone with a hearing loss, consider these tips.

- ✓ **Speak up and articulate, but don't shout**
- ✓ **Pause in between sentences**
- ✓ **Turn down the noise or find a quiet space**
- ✓ **Write it down or use a speech-to-text app**
- ✓ **Gesture and point**
- ✓ **Purchase and wear a clear mask**
- ✓ **Be kind and patient. It will go a long way!**

Looking for support or have a question?  
Reach out to CHC at 917-305-7700  
or [info@chchearing.org](mailto:info@chchearing.org).

## Clear Face Mask Options

Clear face masks facilitate communication by allowing lip movements and facial expressions to be seen. While helpful to everyone, this may be especially useful for people who are deaf or hard of hearing. Here are examples of currently available clear face masks.



**BendShape Mask**



**FaceView Mask**



**Rafi Nova Smile Mask**



**Safe'N'Clear**



**The Clear Mask**



**WETClear Mask**

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**BendShape Mask** [www.bendshapemask.com](http://www.bendshapemask.com)

**FaceView Mask** [www.faceviewmask.com](http://www.faceviewmask.com)

**Rafi Nova Smile Mask** [www.rafinova.com](http://www.rafinova.com)

**Safe'N'Clear** [www.safenclear.com](http://www.safenclear.com)

**The Clear Mask** [www.theclearmask.com](http://www.theclearmask.com)

**WETClear Mask** [www.shop.wetdesign.com](http://www.shop.wetdesign.com)

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# Mask Wearing & Hearing Devices



Sometimes when removing a mask the straps can tangle with a hearing aid or cochlear implant and cause them to fly off the ear. To prevent losing a hearing device when masking, consider these tips.

- ✓ Remove mask carefully in a secure and well-lit space.
- ✓ Pull ear loops of masks away from ear and secure with an ear saver, hair clip or fabric strip with buttons. Alternatively, use a mask with headstraps or tiebacks.
- ✓ Hold the hearing devices in place with a soft and stretchy cloth headband or double sided tape.
- ✓ Attach a safety clip with a cord to the hearing device and the shirt or coat.

Some examples:

Otoclips

Gears for Ears

Oticon Safeline Clip

The Hear Clip



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