

REOPENING RI

Face Covering Communication Tips



Note: You don't need a specific app to text or use speech-to-text on your phone. You can use any texting-based app and the built-in speech-to-text option. If you want a specialized app, they are listed below.

FOR HEARING PEOPLE

TO COMMUNICATE WITH PEOPLE WHO USE SIGN LANGUAGE



- Use speech-to-text on each person's phone.



- Type back and forth using text apps on each person's phone.



- Write back and forth using individual whiteboards/markers.



- Use gestures and hand signs like "thumbs up."



- Use a visual communication tool with icons and images.



- Change to a clear, transparent face covering, if possible.

TO COMMUNICATE WITH PEOPLE WHO SPEAK, LISTEN AND/OR LIPREAD



- Use speech-to-text on each person's phone.



- Look directly at the person and speak slowly and clearly. If asked, speak a little louder.



- Change to a clear, transparent face covering, if possible.

FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE DEAF

TO COMMUNICATE WITH HEARING PEOPLE



- Show your communication alert card to let the person know you are Deaf or Deaf-blind.



- Use speech-to-text on each person's phone.



- Use a Video Remote Interpreting app, if possible.



- Carry paper and pen with you as a backup.



- Call the person using one of the Video Relay Service providers' apps.

FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE HARD-OF-HEARING

TO COMMUNICATE WITH HEARING PEOPLE



- Show your communication alert card to let the person know you are Hard-of-Hearing.



- Use speech-to-text on each person's phone.



- Ask the person to speak slowly and clearly and look directly at you.



- Carry paper and pen with you as a backup.



- Carry an assistive listening device to extend hearing's range in picking up a spoken language.



- Call the person using one of the captioned telephone providers' apps.



- Request rephrasing after asking to repeat information twice.

SPEECH-TO-TEXT APPS

Ava | Live Transcribe | Microsoft Translator | Otter.ai

These apps convert spoken words to written text

TEXT-ONLY APPS

Ava | Big Note | Cardzilla | Google Keep

These apps allow you to type text to be read by the other person

reopeningri.com | health.ri.gov/covid | cdhh.ri.gov/covid-19

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Click [here](#) to download the flyer. For more information, visit www.cdhh.ri.gov/covid-19 or call RI Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing at (401) 256-5511 voice/videophone.