

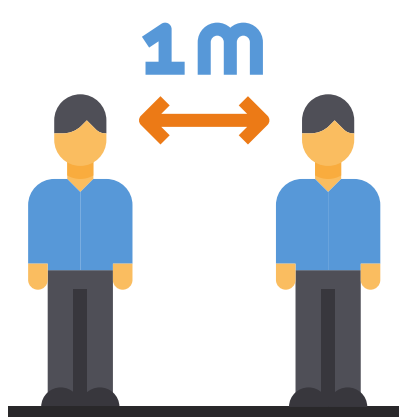
DEAF AWARENESS

How can you be more inclusive and Deaf Aware?

- Deaf people are very visual and can intuitively pick up on your emotions
- Don't shout as this can distort your voice – speak normally and don't exaggerate your lip patterns
- Check the person is looking at you before you start speaking and make sure to face the person whilst speaking
- Speak in your usual rhythm



- Deaf people need good light to be able to communicate clearly; to read signs, expressions, body language and to lip read
- Don't cover your mouth – if facemasks are required, can you use a clear visor or have a visible panel so that your lips can be seen?

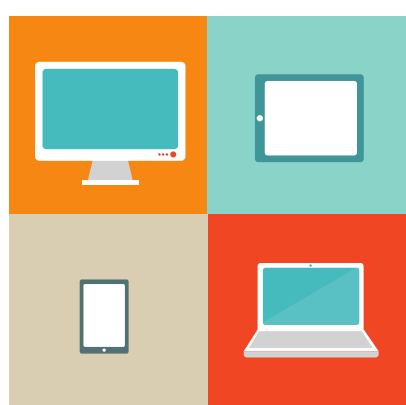


- Stand still while you speak and stand a short distance away (about 1 metre)
- If you aren't sure the person has understood you, gestures may help – pointing is not considered rude in the deaf community

- If you are in a group or meeting with a deaf person, make sure colleagues take it in turns to speak and make sure the person has the opportunity to be involved and communicate their thoughts



- If it is helpful, write things down; use a pen and paper, text on device screens or whiteboards
- Can you make any adaptations or provide information in relevant accessible formats to make sure the person fully understands all the information you want to share?



- Can you utilise technology in any way such as speech to text smart phone apps?*
- Every deaf person will have their own language preferences, always ask a person how they prefer to communicate

*<https://nid.org.uk/information-and-support/technology-and-products/speech-to-text-smartphone-apps/>