



Deaf & Hard of Hearing Considerations



Deaf or hard of hearing people may use:

- A sign language interpreter
- A cochlear implant
- Hearing aids
- An amplifying device
- Any combination of the above



Interaction Tips

- **Get their attention politely and face them while communicating.** Don't hide your face.
- Be aware of background noise and **consider moving to a quiet(er) location** for conversations and meetings.
- Speak **clearly, naturally**, and at a **consistent pace**
- If using a sign language interpreter, **face the person who is Deaf.**
- **Don't shout or use exaggerated mouth movements.**
- When speaking to Deaf or hard-of-hearing people, try to **face the light source** so that you are the clearest & most visible.
- You may **communicate with gestures and/or writing.** Keep a pen and scratch paper nearby.
- **Be sensitive to older people** who may be hard of hearing & reluctant to say so.



A person with hearing loss may have some usable hearing.



If a person with hearing loss does not understand what you're saying, they may ask for you to repeat it.

If they still don't understand, **rephrase the sentence.** Often, it is just **one or two words** they did not understand.