

TIPS FOR COMMUNICATING WITH DEAF PEOPLE

- Do not yell or speak loudly.
- Ask the Deaf person for preferred communication method.
- If the Deaf person needs an ASL interpreter, can you provide one?
- If the Deaf person wishes to communicate in writing, please write clearly.
- If the Deaf person wants to lip-read (and has the skill to do so), then speak normally but enunciate clearly.
- If communication is not working, be willing to change strategies.
- Follow the Deaf person's guidance.
- Ask questions to understand.
- If the person has some hearing, reduce background noise.
- Make sure the space is well-lit.
- Don't leave out information.
- Check for the Deaf person's understanding.
- If you are misunderstood, try rephrasing.
- Use different words with the same meaning.
- Maintain eye contact.
- Be patient.

