

# ANY DEAF COLLEAGUE AT WORK?



*Deaf Awareness tips for the workplace*

## BEFORE STARTING: THANK YOU



Thanks for your time spent and your interest in deaf awareness.

This is a big step that will improve communication, will help to remove barriers and include the deaf person.



USE A CLEAR FACEMASK

If you don't have one, temporarily remove your mask

and follow the current safety guidance.

## COMMUNICATION

- General tips -



Make sure you have the deaf person's attention before you start speaking

Don't place yourself too far away or too close

Use short and simple sentences

Avoid using complex terms

Use normal facial expressions and gestures

Don't exaggerate your lip movements

Speak one at a time if in a group

Avoid dark places and eating + talking

Ask if you are communicating O.K.

Be patient and don't give up



## REMEMBER



For the deaf & hard of hearing

eyes are ears and hands are speech



**THEY CAN'T HEAR YOU SO DON'T COVER YOUR MOUTH.**

*Hiding your mouth when talking is disrespectful*

### AS HEARING PEOPLE:

Some conversation TERMS could be MISUNDERSTOOD.

If you are not understood TRY TO FIND ANOTHER word or another way to say it

## ~~DEAF AND DUMB~~

Don't say 'deaf and dumb' or 'deaf mute'. Say 'Deaf' or 'Hard of Hearing' instead.

## DID YOU KNOW..?

- Sign Language does not represent spoken language and has its own grammar
- Sign Language is not universal. Different Countries have different Sign Language
  - Not all deaf people wear hearing aids or use Sign Language to communicate
  - Deaf people can read, write, drive, work etc... as many other people
- A lack of hearing doesn't mean lack of intelligence

