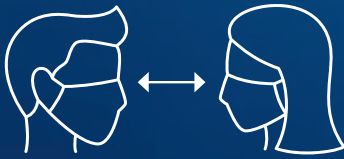


DID YOU KNOW...

Wearing a face mask reduces the volume of your voice and acts to filter out some of the high-pitched sounds that are crucial to understanding. This problem is magnified when you are in a noisy place. More troubling is the loss of facial expressions, which provide context and assist in comprehension. For many individuals, the loss of auditory and visual information can make communication difficult.

Here are some tips that can help you communicate while wearing a mask.



Face the individual(s) from a safe distance.



Minimize background noise.



Speak clearly, slowly, and at a volume that is slightly louder than typical.



Practice turn-taking in conversation. Give adequate time for a response.



Rephrase a statement if it is not understood; don't just repeat the same phrase.



Frequently check understanding both verbally and with body language.



When in a group setting, repeat questions prior to answering them to make sure the group hears you clearly.



Wear/use a microphone, when appropriate/available, to provide a boost in volume. Disinfect mic before and after use.

Be a Smart Shark.