

Hearing Loss in a New Masked World

COVID-19 has left an unprecedented mark on our world. Many of us now wear masks and stay physically apart to protect each other from the virus. Trying to hear a distant voice that is also covered by a mask is exhausting and frustrating, especially for those who have hearing loss. Some helpful solutions are available!

Speech-to-text apps:

Search online for “speech to text” apps. While a masked person is speaking, the app can print the person’s words onto your screen so you can read what is being said. Example: Google Live Transcribe <https://youtu.be/jLCwjlPwA>



Remote microphones: Did you receive a little microphone gadget with your hearing aids? Ever use it? If not, try it! Have the

masked person wear the remote microphone which will send their voice directly into your hearing aids from up to 25 feet away!

Hearing aid “mask mode”: If you wear hearing aids, ask your hearing care professional about setting up a “mask mode” program. Researchers have identified specific speech sounds that are reduced in volume when a mask is worn. Adjustments can be made to hearing aids to boost these sounds and help hear masked voices easier.

Clear masks: Transparent masks are gaining in popularity. They can help improve communication as they allow lip-reading and seeing facial expressions. Examples: The Communicator (safenclear.com) and ClearMask (theclearmask.com)

Contact your hearing care professional to learn more tips!

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