

#Keep it clear

We want people to be safe **and** for deaf children and young people to be able to communicate independently when face coverings are worn.

What's the problem?

Cloth facemasks make lip reading impossible and hide the facial expressions used in British Sign language. This makes communication very difficult for deaf people.

Lots of parents of deaf children and young people have contacted us, concerned about the impact that the use of face coverings will have on their child's day to day life.

What do we want to see?

Clear face masks should be the norm in health, on transport and in public places – as should good deaf awareness.

More and more people have been making and wearing clear facemasks, it is possible to be safe and to support deaf people.

What needs to change?

More people need to know that clear face masks exist and that wearing one could make a big difference to a deaf person.

The Government need to make sure that clear, medical grade facemasks, are available for NHS staff – so far they've not responded to our calls to make this happen.

We need everyone to know how to communicate with deaf people if they're wearing a mask – [check out our five simple communication tips](#).

You can be the change

1. Make transparent masks for you and your MP. Find some designs our [DIY facemask blog](#) and advice on how to wear a facemask safely and effectively.
2. Ask your MP to:
 - write to the Government about the manufacture of clear facemasks for the NHS - we're not aware of any clear medical grade masks that are made on a large-scale in the UK yet,
 - share the communication tips on their social media channels; and
 - post a pic on social media of them in the facemask you made.

Please make it clear that the mask you have made is only for use in public spaces, like shops and on trains, not for medical staff working in hospitals.

3. Pop your facemask, your letter and the [communication tips](#) in a parcel addressed to your MP – House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA.
4. Post your parcel to your MP and post a pic of you showing off your unique facemask! Don't forget to use #keepitclear on Twitter or Instagram and to tag your MP.
5. Ask your crafty and creative friends to do the same!
6. Let us know how it goes and what response you get from your MP.....

Thank you for being the change – you've done a great thing and we really appreciate it 😊

Any questions or feedback? Contact Beccy Forrow, Campaigning and Activism Lead – Rebecca.forrow@ndcs.org.uk