Rethinking Deaf and Hard of Hearing Accessibility in Post-COVID19 Classrooms

Face Mask Recommendations

In order to provide effective communication access, masks that do not obscure facial expressions or information for speech-reading should be provided to all staff and students who will be interacting with DHH students.

Assistive Technology Needs

With use of masks in the classroom and remote learning, additional technology may be required for meaningful access to sound, captioning, and/or sign language interpreting. This may include secondary laptops for displaying captions or interpreters, personal devices for sending sound directly to hearing devices, or classroom soundfield systems. IT support needs to be readily available to troubleshoot devices and back up plans in place for when supports cannot quickly be fixed. Additional cleaning for microphones and other shared systems will be needed.

Electronic Accessibility

All electronic lessons should have accurate closed captioning and/or sign language interpreting, based on each DHH student's preference for effective communication.

Keep DHH Peers Together

When exploring alternate schooling schedules to meet social distancing requirements, thoughtful planning should include maximizing in-person and online opportunities for DHH students to interact with one another.

Temperature Screens

Earmolds may cause false-positive temperature spikes when taking temperatures by ear. Consider using an alternate thermometer or rescreen after 10 minutes with ear molds removed.

Nebraska Regional Programs

NERP
CWNP
MRP
SNRP

For more information please contact your Nebraska Regional Programs for Students who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing Coordinator nrpdhh.site.esu9.org

NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION