

#KeepItClear – Campaign for Clear Face Masks!

Until a few months ago, we thought of face masks as something doctors might wear, or something we put on to go to a Halloween party.

Now, as lockdown begins to lift, you may have noticed people wearing them more in every day settings.

What's the problem?

Like everyone, we want people to stay safe when they're in public. **Masks**, alongside frequently **washing our hands** and keeping a **2 metre distance** are one way we can make sure that we, and those around us, are safe. But for anyone who is deaf – children, young people, and adults alike - masks can make communicating really difficult. You may have found this out already.

Fabric facemasks make lip reading impossible. They also hide the facial expressions used in British Sign Language.

We want clear face masks to be normal, and when they are required, for people to wear them in public places. This will make it easier for everyone to communicate!

What do we want to see?

What needs to change?

We want everyone to know that clear face masks exist, and that wearing one could make a big difference to a deaf person.

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

How you can get involved:

1. Make two clear face masks – one for you, and one for your MS.

You can find out who your MS is here:

<https://business.senedd.wales/mgFindMember.aspx>

[Click here to find some designs for the masks on our blog!](#)

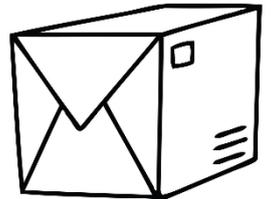


2. Write a short letter to ask your MS, asking them to:

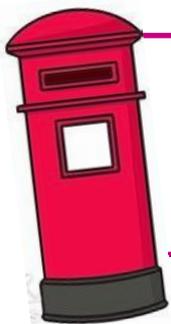
- Share the communication tips on their Twitter account or Facebook Page
- Post a pic on social media of them in the mask you made and ask them to tag NDCS!

If you don't know what to say, we've included some tips and an example on the next page which you can personalise.

3. Pop your facemask, your letter and the communication tips in a parcel addressed to your MS: Pierhead St, Cardiff, CF99 1SN



4. Post your parcel, and share a pic on social media to show off your unique facemask. Don't forget to use #KeepItClear on Twitter or Instagram and tag your MS if you can.



5. Ask your creative friends and family to do the same!



6. Let us know how it goes and what response you get from your MS.

Any questions or ideas you would like
to share with us?

Email cyp@ndcs.org.uk

Top tips for writing:

Make it personal!

Make sure you let them know they are your MS and tell them why this campaign matters to you.

Your voice matters, so write in your own style!

Make it clear what you are asking the MS to do.

Check what you need to include in the package.

This time you need:

Your letter, a clear face mask for the MS and a printout of the communication tips.

You can personalise the example below to print out and send, or use it to get some ideas to write your own from scratch!

If you would like support to write your own, you can email us at cyp@ndcs.org.uk. We would love to help!

Date

Dear _____,

My name is _____, I am ___ years old and you are my MS. I'm writing to you because....

Use this bit to tell your MS what you want to talk about, and why it matters to you!

Next, tell them what has been hard for you or what you're worried about.

Then you can tell them why things need to change – if you've got a story about a time when a face mask made things hard for you, you could tell it!

In this last section you can tell your MS what you would like them to do. Here are some ideas – you can also add your own:

- Ask them to take a photo of themselves in their new clear facemask and share it on social media (they can tag NDCS and use #KeepItClear)
- Ask them to share our communication tips in their office, or on social media.

Yours Sincerely,