

# **KCDHH COMMUNICATOR**

*connecting you to current news*

COMMUNICATOR

DECEMBER 2020

## **KCDHH Express: Visit Virtual Signing Santa**



Come jump on the KCDHH Express for a North Pole experience with Signing Santa on Saturday, December 19, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Families who sign up will have their own personal time with Signing Santa along with a virtual photo opportunity on this Zoom event. Prior to the

weekend of this event, you will receive the Zoom link and your scheduled time slot. To attend, please complete the online registration form. If you have multiple children, please make sure to register for a time slot for each child in your household. Time slots are divided by age group.

**For complete details, click on the link below:**

[SignUpGenius](#)

This event is for Kentucky residents only. If you need additional information or have questions, please contact KCDHH at (502) 573-2604 (V) or (502) 416-0607 (VP).

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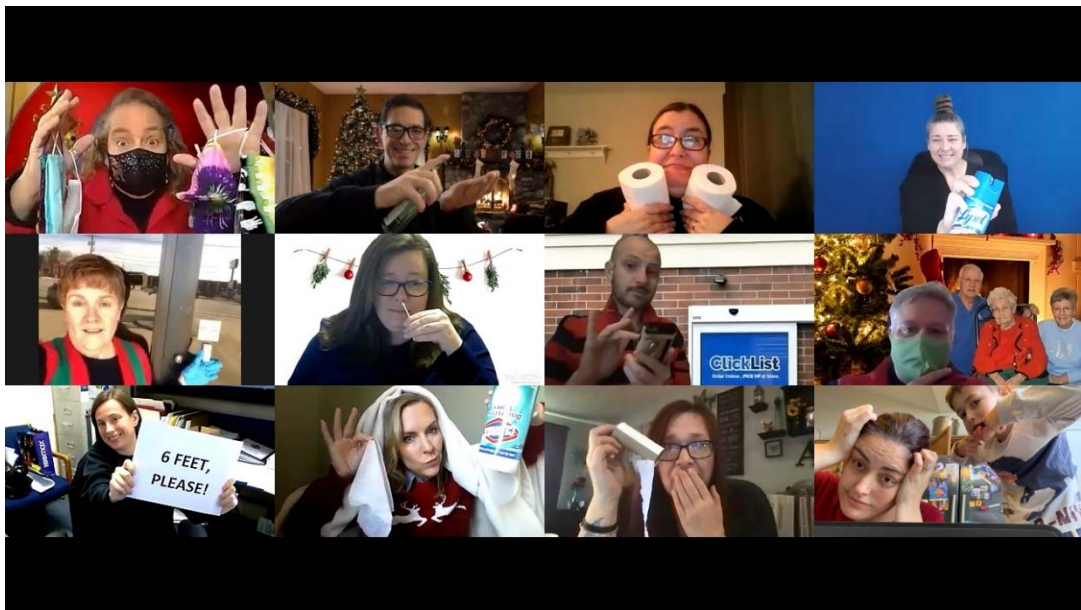
## ***Announcing KCDHH's New Communicator***

With this email, we are pleased to announce the launch of our new email newsletter. This is our first issue of the new Communicator and we are making plans to create original content each month instead of our printed version of the Communicator that was produced four times a year.

We know this will be a change and we're hoping you are as excited about it as we are. This format will allow us to get timely information to you. We look forward to your feedback and letting us know the types of information you'd like to see included.

We hope this will be a welcomed addition to your inbox. Please feel free to share it with others.

*Happy Holidays!*



*"We'll Get Through This Together."*

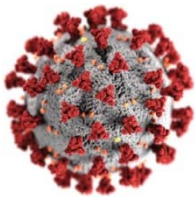
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The KCDHH staff wishes everyone a safe and happy holiday. Please make sure to check on one another, stay positive, stay healthy and we'll see you in the new year. KCDHH's office will be closed on December 24-25 for Christmas and December 31-January 1 for the New Year.

***Mask Up Kentucky-You Are Saving A Life!***

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## **Governor Announces COVID-19 Vaccine Dates**



Kentucky is preparing for its first rollout of COVID-19 vaccines. Governor Andy Beshear says Kentucky will receive its first shipment of vaccines in mid-December. The state will get 38,025 doses from Pfizer.

### **COVID-19**

The first group involves long-term care residents and staff. Beshear says this group makes up 66% of COVID-19 related deaths. CVS and Walgreens will distribute around 26,000 vaccines to people in this category.

Next are frontline health care workers. Beshear says health facilities around the state will distribute about 12,000 vaccines to people in this category. Local health departments have already signed up to be distributors.

Beshear says the state expects 76,000 Moderna vaccines in late-December. The state has outlined a distribution plan as more vaccines become available.

After the initial phase, vaccines will go to first responders, healthcare workers in outpatient settings, correctional facilities, and essential workers in social services, education, utilities, public transportation, food services and government.

Next are the vulnerable populations, such as individuals over 60, those with underlying health conditions, pregnant women and high-risk children.

The rest of the general public will be last.

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## **Help Family Members with HL During Holidays**

For most, the holidays will look very different from years past. For those with a hearing loss (HL), it's also going to sound very different, as traditional family gatherings go online or are limited to phone and/or video calls. However, there are a variety of ways we can make the most of the holidays and make sure family members with hearing loss with hearing loss feel included. Here are some tips to help you:

- If celebrating with a virtual gathering on Zoom or other video conferencing platform, turn on the closed captioning function.
- Depending on the degree of hearing loss, hard of hearing individuals may be able to use headphones or ear plugs to block out background noise during video chats and phone calls. This improves sound quality and cancels out background noise, making it easier for your loved one to understand you.
- Make sure you have good lighting. Visual cues for lip reading are something we all use and they are even more important for those with hearing loss.
- Speak slowly and clearly but do not shout, as that doesn't help the individuals with a hearing loss hear better.
- Paraphrase if your loved one did not hear you correctly the first time.

*(Hearing Life, Canada, November 12, 2020)*

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## ***Free VRI During COVID Testing***

Great news! Linguabee is offering a free VRI service for the Deaf community to use at COVID-19 testing sites to facilitate clear communications. The procedure is fairly simple via Zoom! Visit their website at the link below for more information and procedures for set up.



<https://www.linguabee.com/covid19/free-vri>

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## ***Deaf Sober Zoom: December 19, 24, 26***

Please help us spread the word! The holidays can be a tough time for people and we don't want Deaf individuals to feel alone. The Deaf Sober Socials are held on Zoom. They are open to anyone in recovery from using alcohol or other drugs. They are also open to anyone who wants help to stop using alcohol or other drugs. Please consider joining and let others know about this opportunity! The event is in ASL and led by Deaf individuals from noon to 2 p.m. (ET) each day. Login in to zoom.com and use ID 6463632168 and password D3AFSOB3R.

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## **KCDHH Seeking Applications for Secretary**

KCDHH has a job opening for the position of Executive Administrative Secretary. If you are interested in applying, please email your resume and cover letter to [Elise.Kitchen@ky.gov](mailto:Elise.Kitchen@ky.gov).

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## ***Mask UP KY! Free Clear Masks Still Available***

Thanks to a grant and generous sponsors, KCDHH has been able to partner with various agencies who work directly with individuals who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing to provide the ClearMask for FREE. Teachers, interpreters, employers, mental health counselors, hospitals, clinics, medical providers and nursing homes should visit the links below for mask information.



<https://www.kcdhh.ky.gov/mask/clearmask.html>

Parents of children who are deaf or hard of hearing may visit:  
<https://kyhandsandvoices.org/the-clear-mask/>

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## COVID-19 Pandemic Resources

### International:

World Health Organization: <https://www.who.int/>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC):  
<https://www.cdc.gov/>

### National:

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA):  
<https://www.fema.gov/>

Coronavirus.gov: <https://www.coronavirus.gov/>

What You Should Know About COVID-19 and the ADA, the Rehabilitation Act, and Other EEO Laws:  
<https://www.eeoc.gov/wysk/what-you-should-know-about-covid-19-and-ada-rehabilitation-act-and-other-eeo-laws>

### Kentucky:

Kentucky Governor News: <https://governor.ky.gov/news>

The official Team Kentucky source for information concerning COVID-19: <https://govstatus.egov.com/kycovid19>

KCDHH: <https://www.kcdhh.ky.gov/>

KCDHH COVID-19 Important Links for Deaf and Hard of Hearing:  
<https://www.kcdhh.ky.gov/>

KCDHH Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/KCDHH>

Hearing Loss Association of America Kentucky Chapters:  
<https://www.hearinglosskentucky.org/>

### Apps:

For those who have deaf family members who use sign language, consider downloading **Sorenson Wavello** and/or the **ZVRS Sivo** app on your smartphone. It's a wonderful feature that makes it possible for you to see your loved ones on your screen, next to your video interpreter.

## **Other KCDHH Resources**

KCDHH: <https://www.kcdhh.ky.gov/>

KCDHH's Telecommunications Access Program (TAP): Landline or wireless equipment for Kentucky residents who are deaf, hard of hearing, speech impaired or have both a hearing and vision loss.

<https://www.kcdhh.ky.gov/oea/howapply.html>

KCDHH Commissioners:

<https://www.kcdhh.ky.gov/oas/commissioners.html>

KCDHH Staff: <https://www.kcdhh.ky.gov/oas/staff.html>

[Unsubscribe](#)

Mailbox not monitored, do not reply. Please contact us at [kcdhh@kcdhh.ky.gov](mailto:kcdhh@kcdhh.ky.gov).

**KENTUCKY COMMISSION ON THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING**

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