Providing Interpreting Services During COVID-19

Interpreters are essential workers who risk exposure to COVID-19. They help ensure equal access to vital community services such as healthcare, justice, and education.

Provide interpreters with a safe working environment.

Onsite but remote
- Provide a separate location where interpreters can safely work by video or telephone.
- Properly sanitize that location, the furnishings and equipment after each use.
- Ensure the location is properly ventilated and provide space for social distancing.

Face to Face
- Assess and disclose COVID-19 exposure risk to interpreter in advance.
- Provide personal protective equipment per CDC and OSHA guidelines.
- Use a visitor log for contact tracing.

Follow all safety and health ordinances in effect at the location.

- Masks
- Face Shields
- Gowns
- Record visitor’s name, date/time, phone and email for contact tracing.
- Ensure safe social distancing.
- Install shields.
- Disinfect Regularly.
- The interpreter may decide to withdraw if safety measures are not in place.

* To schedule interpreters for deaf, hard of hearing, and deaf/blind people, see Other COVID-19 Resources below.

Other Covid-19 resources:
Helen Keller National Center (HKNC) COVID-19 Communication Guidelines
National Center for State Courts (NCSC) Recommendations for In-Person Court Interpretation

These guidelines were developed by the following organizations: