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Window Face Masks Aid Communities with Communication and the Fight Against COVID-19

One of the most effective tools to combating the spread of COVID-19 is wearing face masks. However, while they prevent respiratory droplets from spreading as easily, they cover half the face. This leads to communication breakdown for people who are deaf or hard of hearing and who rely on lipreading and facial expressions. Similarly, traditional face masks can cause anxiety for people with autism. **The solution to helping people stay safe and feel at ease is window face masks.** These masks have a clear plastic window over the mouth so people can see the lips and smile of the wearer.

Global Links has been able to distribute window face masks to organizations serving the deaf community and people with intellectual disabilities. These include the Center for Hearing & Deaf Services, Inc. and The Children's Institute. Thanks to these masks, these organizations can continue to help their communities while staying safe during this pandemic.