**Frequently Asked Questions**

**The information provided is compiled from resources from the American Speech/Hearing Association (ASHA), the Educational Audiology Association (EAA), Technology Considerations to Improve Access, Involvement, Outcomes-Tech Talk, and leading manufacturers of Hearing Assistance Technology.**

**What can I do to make the in-person learning experience more engaging for my students when wearing masks and social distancing?**

* Make sure you have the attention of your student before you start talking.
* Face them directly, and make sure nothing is blocking your view.
* Speak slowly and slightly louder, but don’t shout or exaggerate your speech.
* Optimize hearing—confirm that those who use hearing aids or cochlear implants are wearing their devices or use a portable amplifier. Use your eyes, hands, and body language to add information to your speech.
* Provide visual references (e.g., printouts, notes, images) to accompany communication.
* Ask if they understood you—if they didn’t, rephrase it or write it down.
* Ask them to repeat important information to see whether they understood what you said.
* Reduce competing noise in the environment, if possible.
* If you’re talking with someone new, ask the person what you can do to make communication easier for both of you.
* Ask your educational audiologist-communicating with masks is similar to communicating with a hearing loss, even for those with normal hearing, your audiologist can provide you with communication strategies to fit your individual classroom needs.