

October 6, 2022



Empowering
Independence

CENTER FOR LIVING & WORKING, INC.

WHAT'S UP?



Deaf and Hard of Hearing Independent Living Services

MCDHH 35th Anniversary Wrap-Up



Message From Dr. Opeoluwa Sotonwa

Commissioner, Massachusetts Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

We are delighted to present the MCDHH 35th Anniversary Wrap-Up Historical Summary, a video that captures the agency's history, our staff, services and programs, a musical tribute from *DEAFinitely, Inc.*, and much more!



We were fortunate to find footage from WCVB's Chronicle which aired in March 1986, with appearances from Marie Philip, BJ Wood, Stephen Nover, Edgar Herrera, Annette Posell, Marie Tavormina, Craig Anderson, and others.

I want to thank everyone who worked so hard to make this happen, your contributions are greatly appreciated!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YRUG_HyBAu4



MCDHH Citation from Governor Baker

Governor Baker issued a citation to MCDHH in recognition of its 35 years of service and ongoing efforts to serve the community.

2nd Annual John Winske Memorial Awards

Stephanie Hakulin, [Past] President of *Massachusetts State Association of the Deaf* announced as awardee for the **2022 Bill Allan Award for Grassroots Advocacy**. Registration and other awardee information will be provided soon!

Save The Date:

Tuesday, November 15th at 6PM (Zoom)

Paid and free tickets will be available.

Email kbradshaw@dpcma.org for other accommodations.



ASL Interpreters
& CART provided.

MCDHH Updates

Recognition of Hispanic Heritage Month

Facebook link: https://fb.watch/8mXaC_TMqV/ Transcript: [here](#)



New MCDHH Logo

This design incorporates our core values: a human services agency which is customer centered, inclusive, diverse both in terms of communication and culture, with staff and residents who are passionate and very proud of Massachusetts and MCDHH. Going forward you will see the new logo on the MCDHH website, our Facebook and Twitter pages, MCDHH brochures, and at our conference exhibits and displays.



Facebook link: <https://fb.watch/fEwOZSLzUb/> Transcript: [here](#)

DTA Domestic Violence Services

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. The Department of Transitional Assistance has a team of Domestic Violence Specialists from diverse backgrounds with a lot of experience. There is a Domestic Violence Specialist covering every DTA Office. Learn more about DTA's services in their new video in American Sign Language:



YouTube link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qEdpPVEP8MQ&feature=emb_logo

MCDHH Launches Emergency Services Card

MCDHH has created a visual tool called the **Emergency Services Card**. It is designed to assist EMT's, firefighters, and Deaf and hard of hearing individuals in communicating better in the first moments of an emergency. We are grateful to our Deaf and hard of hearing community members who expressed a need for the ability to communicate better in certain emergency situations and for their feedback during the development process. Please see the link below for the card, instructions, and accessible versions: <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/emergency-services-card>

Card: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/emergency-services-card-ma/download>

Instructions: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/emergency-services-card-ma-instructions/download>

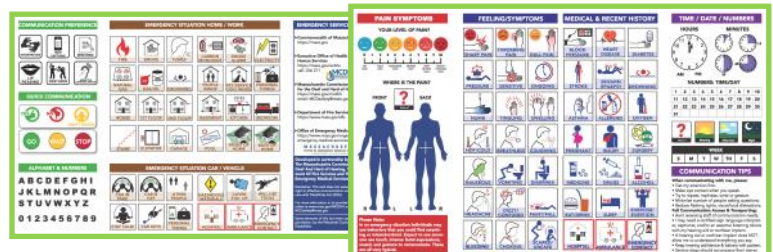
Inverse Color version: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1k1dml8oOzQ6jM6QNqCkoy2UvAmVY3xKg/view?usp=sharing>

EMTs and Firefighters can use the icons/tips to help:

- learn an individual's preferred communication method
- communicate immediate specifics regarding a car emergency (jaws of life)
- determine:
 - pain level/location of pain
 - symptoms, severity, and timeframe
 - relevant medical and recent history
 - location and type of emergency
 - if other individuals are missing/involved

Deaf or hard of hearing individuals can use the icons to help communicate:

- preferred method of communication
- pain level and location
- symptoms, severity, and timeframe
- location & type of home/work/car emergency
- other relevant information



COVID-19 Updates

United States at a Glance



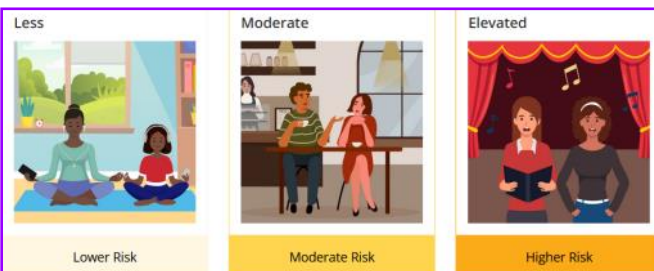
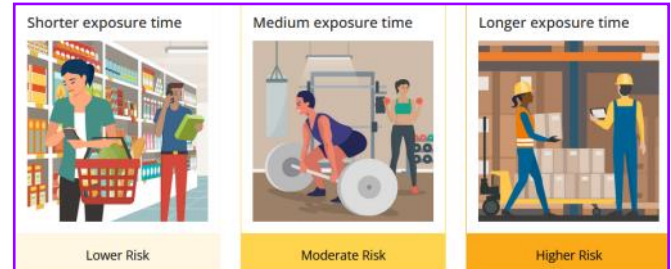
Understanding Exposure Risks

Have you been around a person with COVID-19?
Wondering if you now have COVID-19?

ASK YOURSELF THESE QUESTIONS

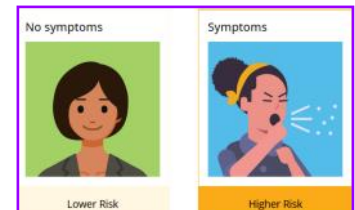
Length of time: *How long were you with the infected person?*

The longer you were with the sick person, the greater chance you'll get COVID-19 (Ex: 15 or more minutes with the sick person is *more likely* to spread COVID-19 than 2 minutes of contact).



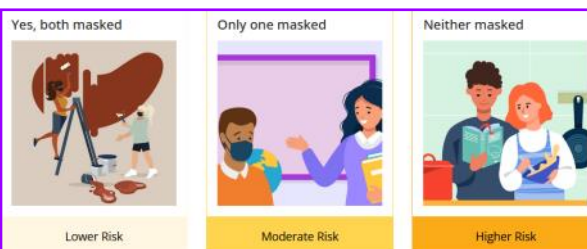
Coughing or heavy breathing: *Was the infected person coughing, singing, shouting, or breathing heavily?*

Activities like coughing, singing, shouting, or breathing heavily increase the risk of COVID-19 transmission.



Symptoms: *Did the infected person have symptoms at the time?*

You're more likely to get infected if you are around people who have symptoms (coughing, fever, etc.)



Masks: *Did you, or the infected person, or both of you wear a respirator (Ex. N95) or high-quality mask?*

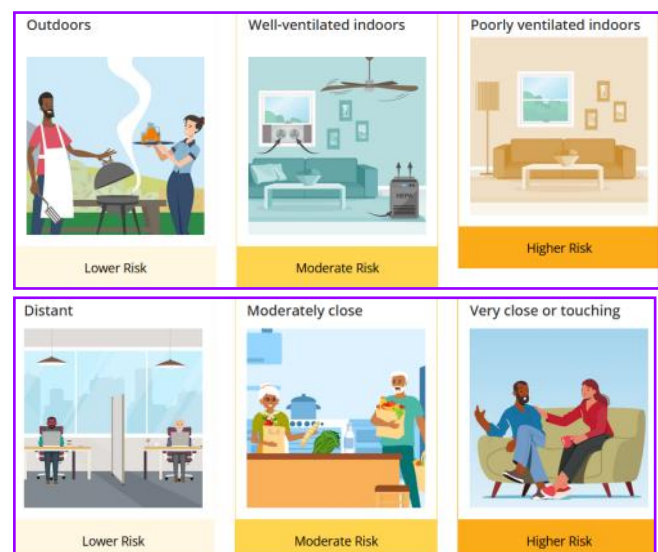
- One person wearing a mask **decreases** transmission.
- Both people wearing masks lowers the risk **even more**.

Wear an N95 or KN95 to lower your risk of getting COVID-19!

Ventilation and filtration: *How well-ventilated was the space?* More outdoor air **decreases** the risk of transmission.

Distance: *How close was the infected person to you?* Being closer to someone who is infected with COVID-19 **increases** the risk of transmission. Crowded settings increase your chances of being close to someone with COVID-19.

Click [here](#) for more information.



IRS Videos



How To Avoid IRS Text Message Scams

Avoid smishing scams — that text message **is not** from the IRS!

Visit <https://youtu.be/6JAKqrUNf-o> for more information.

Video has Closed Captions



Is This the Year You File Your Tax Return Electronically?

9 out of 10 people electronically file their federal tax returns. If you don't e-file, find out why you really should. For more information, go to <https://youtu.be/PNEp-vwPW8I>

News from Sorenson

Sorenson now offers Spanish support for Lumina, ntouch VP2, and the ntouch app!
How to enable Spanish on your Videophone for VP2 & Lumina:

- Go to Settings > Controls > En Español
- Switch from English to Español. **How to enable Spanish on iOS / Android / Mac / PC:**
- Be sure your device and the ntouch app are up to date.
- Go to your device's **language settings** and select **Español**

Your videophone/app are now in Español! Check out the latest features in iOS and Android [here](#).



Sorenson Apps, in Spanish!

 **Sorenson**



Medicare Open Enrollment:

OCT 15—NOV 7, 2022

Review available plans

Introducing *Xiomara Lopez*

My name is Xiomara Lopez and I am a senior in the ASL interpreting major at Framingham State University. I am currently doing my practicum with *Worcester Public Schools* and *CLW's DHILS Department*. Fun fact about me: ASL is my **third** language. I am also fluent in both Spanish and English.

In the future my goal is to be a multilingual interpreter in either a medical or educational setting.



The Denholm: *History and an Appreciation*



NOTE: The Worcester Redevelopment Authority voted in August to buy the historic Denholm building, the original and beloved site of the Denholm & McKay department store.

Article from Downtown Worcester BID 9/28/2022

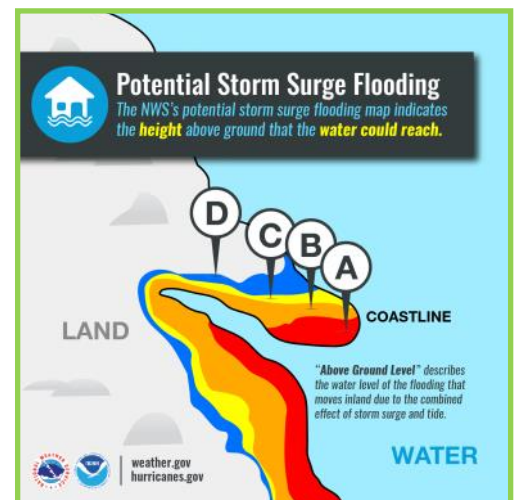
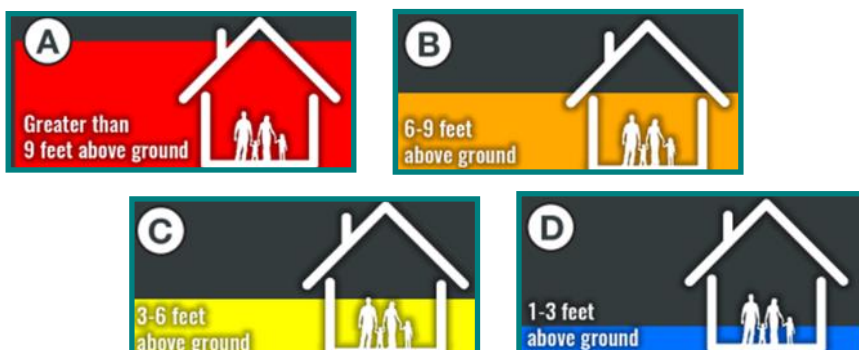
Founded as a dry goods store (located up the street in the 1870s), founders Denholm and McKay quickly needed a larger space for their operation, which pushed the pair to this prominent location—a building constructed by Clark

University Founder Jonas C. Clark. The building's large scale allowed Denholm and McKay to expand into a department store, a revolutionary concept at the time. This positioned them to compete with any Boston area store, eventually leading to the nickname, "The Boston Store." The business held strong for over 100 years before being purchased by another retailer.

In recent years, the building has been home to a post office branch, several nonprofit organizations serving the community, a café, and a number of lawyers and accountants. Significant deferred maintenance issues hampered the organizations' efforts to serve their clients and the building recently stood without electricity for more than a month. Authorizing a notable \$3 million Purchase and Sale Agreement for the 484 Main Street property, the City says it will take bids from interested developers in the coming months. We hold a genuine appreciation and respect for this landmark building, standing at the core of Downtown retail activity—and hope that the building's successor will contribute as significantly to the vibrancy of the City.

What is Storm Surge?

Storm surge is the **height above ground** that the water could reach.



Worcester Parent Guide to Community Resources

[CLICK HERE FOR ENG-](#)

Worcester Parent /
Caregiver Guide to
Community Services



A project originally supported by the Child Development Program / Prevention Collaborative of the Health Foundation of Central MA.

Updated Therapists for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Directory

Click here: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1mRNQIKYYNjM4vYpRX7OECQkiW-PQlu62/view?usp=sharing>



MISSED A *WHAT'S UP* NEWSLETTER?

Past issues of newsletters are on our website!

VISIT: [HTTPS://WWW.CENTERLW.ORG/SERVICES/DEAF-HARD-OF-HEARING/](https://www.centerlw.org/services/deaf-hard-of-hearing/)

NOTE: Contact your Skills Trainer with questions.

Questions about this Newsletter?

Need a website address from your printed newsletter? *Contact your Skills Trainer!*

Joan Philip	DHILS Director	508-762-1165 (VP)
Denise Paro	Administrative Assistant	508-556-1600 (VP)
Ellen Perkins	DHILS Asst. Manager/Hard of Hearing Skills Trainer	508-502-7576 (Voice); 508-762-1354 (VP)
Catherine Brown	Deaf Skills Trainer (Part-time)	508-762-1021 (VP)
Rosemary Moreira	Deaf Skills Trainer (Full-time)	508-762-1166 (VP)
Jonathan Vanderschrick	Deaf Skills Trainer (Full-time)	508-762-1350 (VP)
Kim White	Staff Interpreter	508-755-1042 (Voice); 508-283-1036 (VP)

Contact Us!

Center for Living & Working, Inc.

Deaf and Hard of Hearing Independent Living Services Department

Videophone: 508-762-1164

Voice/TTY: 508-755-1003

www.CenterLW.org



Deaf and Hard of Hearing Independent Living Services



CLW: <https://www.facebook.com/CenterForLivingAndWorking>

DHILS Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/469192334303776>