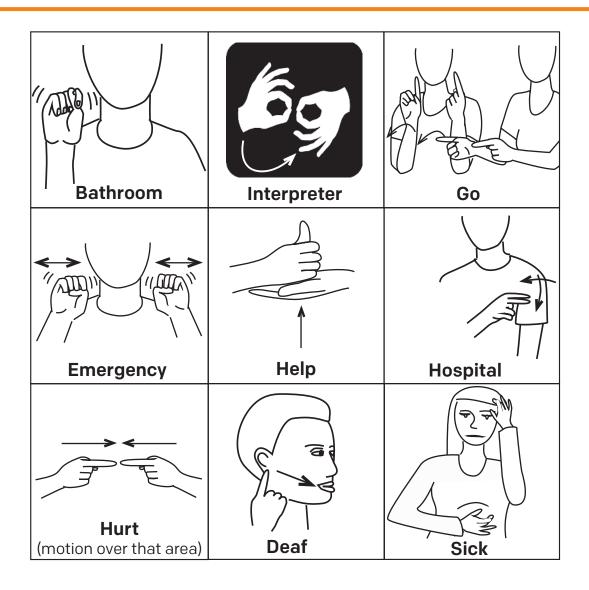
## Essential Sign Language EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION

This handout is a guide for basic sign language you may see during an emergency situation. This is only a tool. You should always use a qualified PA State Registered Sign Language Interpreter.

(Arrows in the illustrations below designate motioning)



## **COMMUNICATION TIPS**

- Maintain eye contact with the person who is deaf/hard of hearing.
- Speak directly to the person, not the interpreter.
- Use natural facial expressions and universal gestures.
- Speak clearly and avoid shouting and exaggeration.
- Provide physical or visual guidance. Write it down, if needed.

## **Sign Language Interpreters**

ASL Services

Statewide 717-755-3212

Berks Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services

Berks and surrounding counties 610-685-4520

Center Fox Hearing and Deaf Services

Western PA 412-281-1375

Deaf Hearing Communication Center (DHCC)

Southeastern PA 610-604-0452

Deaf Hearing Communication Center, Inc.

Southeastern PA 610-604-0450

Sign Language Interpreting Professionals, LLC

Western PA 412-400-2021

Purple Video Remote Interpreting\*

Statewide

English: 877-467-4877 Spanish: 877-467-4875

\*Video Remote Interpretation (VRI)

In-person interpretation by a PA State Registered interpreter is strongly preferred and is standard for reasonable accommodation.

If there is a delay in obtaining on-site certified interpretation, VRI may be utilized. With VRI, the interpreter is off-site and communication depends on a video streaming application.



