

Staying connected with video calling

The spread of COVID-19 means that at the moment we can't visit friends and family in person.

Video calling is a great way to stay in touch. There are many video calling services available. Here are some common ones (some have paid options, but all have a basic version that can be used for free):

Skype

Works on computers, mobile phones and tablets (such as iPads).

Download the [app](#) or go to the [website](#), create an account and start chatting.

Provides the ability to [blur your background](#).

Accounts need to be linked to a phone number or email address. Skype allows you to set up a new email address very quickly and easily which could be separate to your ordinary account.

Zoom

Works on computers, mobile phones and tablets (such as iPads).

Free accounts are limited to 40 min call time.

Download the app for [iOS](#) (Apple) or for [Android](#) (Google Play) or go to the [website](#), create and account, download the browser plugin and start chatting.

Can set up a meeting with someone by providing a meeting login ID number and an optional password.

WhatsApp

[Download](#) the app for your mobile phone or tablet.

Linked to your mobile phone number.

Facebook Messenger

[Download](#) the app for your mobile phone or tablet or use on a computer.

Linked to your Facebook account.

FaceTime

Apple's videocalling app. [Download](#) the app and use on iPhones, iPads, iPod Touch and Mac computers. Linked to your Apple ID.

Google Duo

Google's video calling app. [Download](#) and use on Android phones or iPhones, tablets and computers. Linked to your mobile phone number.

Most of these video calling services have the ability to just use audio instead. You can also pre-record video and audio messages and send them on most of these services.