

Tech Coach Corner - Video Calls

by Bryan Smith, LTCL Tech Coach

It seems everyone is talking about using video calls these days to promote physical distancing while strengthening social connections. This week's tech tip is aimed at helping us use our digital devices that have cameras and screens to connect.

There are many video calling options and some are dependent on the devices that the participants have. I've singled out the most popular options. Contact me if you need information on other devices.

If everyone has an Apple device (iPhone, iPad, or Mac), then FaceTime is an easy option to use as it is preinstalled on these devices. Get started by clicking [here](#). Group FaceTime supports up to 32 participants – click [here](#) for more information.

If everyone doesn't have an Apple device, and instead they have an Android-based device (phones, tablets, or Chromebooks), or a Windows-based PC, then Google Hangouts is as easy option, and it's often already installed. If not, you can install it from the Google Play Store. Get started by clicking [here](#). Group Hangouts supports up to 10 people – click [here](#) for more information.

However, there are other popular options that work on nearly every digital device that has a camera, a screen, and Internet connectivity:

- [Facebook Messenger](#)
- [WhatsApp Messenger](#)
- [Skype](#)

Video calls require either Wi-Fi or a cellular data plan. If you are using your cellular data plan, keep in mind that video calls consume about 3MB for every minute of the call (~15MB/5 mins; ~30MB/10 mins; etc.). This is one reason why many folks prefer to use WiFi for these calls.

If you have any questions about this or other Tech Coach topics, feel free to drop me a note at bfsmith@gmail.com – we can even have a video call if you'd like. Even Tech Coaches can become bored during this STAY HOME – STAY SAFE time.