

# Free Video Conference & Collaboration Resources

If you are wanting to communicate with your groups virtually, here's where you can get the technology that you need for free.

## Facebook Chats

Both admins and group members can create a chat. However, group admins have the ability to limit chat creations to the admins of the group only.

To get started:

Tap the Chats tab in your group

Tap the "Start a Group Chat" button at the bottom of your screen

In this section of your group, you will find all the group chat threads listed and can even start your own thread. You can then continue chatting in Messenger

The person who creates the chat becomes the chat owner and gets to name and choose an image for their chat. Anyone can add people from the group, but group members can leave a chat at any time and the chat creator can remove people.

To manage chats in your Facebook Group:

Visit your group settings for posting permissions - the default chat permission is set to whatever your set Post Permissions or Post Approvals are

Specify "only admins" can create chats in Facebook Groups within permissions

If post approval or post permissions are on, only admins can create chats

Chats are limited to those in the Facebook group (no one else can get in unless they are in the group)

# Use Group FaceTime on your iPhone, iPad, and iPod touch

Group FaceTime makes it easy to chat with multiple people at the same time. You can start a Group FaceTime right from the FaceTime app or from a group conversation in the Messages app. The tile of the person speaking gets larger automatically, so you'll never lose track of the conversation.

## Make a call from the FaceTime app

Go to Settings > FaceTime, and make sure that FaceTime is on.

Open FaceTime and tap the plus button in the top-right corner.

Enter the name of your contacts, phone numbers, or emails.

To start your FaceTime call, tap Audio or Video.

## Make a call from the Messages app

In a group conversation in Messages, you can start Group FaceTime right from the group conversation. Follow these steps:

Open Messages and start a group conversation. Or go to an existing group conversation.

Tap the contacts at the top of the group conversation.

Tap FaceTime, then start your call.

# Android Group Video Call

On your Android phone, open the Duo app.

On the screen, swipe up.

Tap Create group.

Choose your contacts.

Tap Video call.

Optional: When the call is done, you can name the group. Enter a name and tap Save. Everyone in the group will see the name.

# Zoom

Although Zoom has a free version of its software available. You can [sign up to the free version of Zoom](#) here to host up to 100 participants, access free 1-to-1 meetings, and create group meetings lasting up to 40 minutes.

# Google Hangouts

Google announced that it is rolling out free access to advanced features for Hangouts Meet for all G-Suite and Education customers until the first of July.

This means that you can now host meetings with up to 10,000 viewers, or 250 visitors in a single domain, for free. Download from chrome store: <https://chrome.google.com/webstore/detail/google-hangouts/nckgahadagoaajjgafhacjanaoiihapd?hl=en>

They also offer Google Hangouts Chat in App Store free: <https://apps.apple.com/us/app/google-hangouts-chat/id1163852619>

# Avaya Spaces

Avaya was one of the conferencing and communication companies on the frontline of the Coronavirus outbreak. The company donated audio and video equipment to workers in China, dispatching support for speedy deployments.

Today, the global company is taking steps to support more companies on a global level, by offering the [Avaya Spaces solution](#) for cloud meeting and collaboration for free. Avaya Spaces is available to all educational institutions and non-profit organizations across the globe. The free solution will support video conferencing for up to 200 participants, with access to video, voice, chat, content sharing, and online meetings.

# Microsoft Teams

As the infection has spread, Microsoft is making it's [technology available globally](#).

The free trial is available to anyone who has an Office 365 license. Some of you may have that through your employers.