

[Addressing Social Determinants of Health Through Policy A Planning Guide for Multi-Sector Community Partnerships](#) (pdf)

This policy planning guide can help community multisector coalitions/partnerships develop and implement a strategy for using policies as tools to prevent chronic disease, improve population health, and advance health equity by addressing the root causes and drivers of health.

[A guide for caregivers](#) (pdf) CDC.gov

COVID-19 is challenging to explain, live through, and communicate about. As a caregiver, you work hard to help the person you care for stay healthy and safe during this difficult time. These materials were created to help you share important information about COVID-19 — and make the tough moments a little easier.

[At Home COVID-19 Test Kits](#)

Residential households in the U.S. can order one set of 4 free at-home tests from USPS.com.

[Four Ways to Help People Get Free Rapid At Home COVID-19 Tests](#) (pdf)

NACHW CHW and Partner Access to Free COVID-19 at home tests

[Center for Dignity in Healthcare For People with Disabilities Social Stories:](#)

- [Getting a COVID-19 Vaccine Social Story](#)-(English)
- [Recibir Una Vacuna COVID-19](#) (Spanish)
- [Getting a COVID-19 Vaccine Social Story](#) (Screen Reader)

[Connect with Tech at TechOWL](#)

CONNECT WITH TECH helps people get free tablets and tech support.

[One page information sheet](#) (pdf)

[COVID-19 Materials for People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities and Care Providers](#)

COVID-19 is challenging to explain, live through, and communicate about. The materials on this page were created to help make communicating about COVID-19 a little easier. Choose from videos, posters, social stories, and interactive activities to best meet your communication needs.

[COVID-19 Vaccine Text and Graphic Resources](#)

National Center on Disability in Public Health

These plain language talking points can be used as a conversation guide by anyone doing work to support and encourage people with and without disabilities to get their COVID-19 vaccine. Vaccine confidence plain language talking points in English, Spanish, Traditional Chinese, Korean, and Bengali

[COVID-19 Vaccine Website Accessibility Dashboard](#)

This cross-sectional study aimed to examine accessibility of U.S. state and territory COVID-19 information and registration centralized websites.

[Digial.Gov/Resources](#)

This site includes a list of resources for accessibility on-line and in writing – including plain language resources.

[Disability Information and Access Line \(DIAL\)](#)

Help with COVID-19 vaccinations for people with disabilities The Disability Information and Access Line (DIAL) is now available to help people with disabilities, including Deaf persons, get vaccinated. The DIAL's trained staff is standing by to:

- Help find local vaccination locations.
- Assist with making vaccination appointments.
- Connect callers to local services—such as accessible

[Infographic](#) (pdf)

[Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on People with Disabilities Research Findings April 2022](#)(pdf) Administration for Community Living – COVID-19 Response

During the COVID-19 pandemic, nearly all projects funded by the Administration for Community Living's National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR) experienced substantial delays and required pivoting in some way during the pandemic. Grantees used this opportunity to collect data on the experiences of people with disabilities. This document summarizes some of their findings.

[Interagency Committee on Disability Research \(ICDR\) March Lunch & Learn webinar: COVID-19 Data on Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. \(April 2023\)](#)

[Dr. Cherpes Webinar – The Impact of COVID-19 on the Disability Community](#) (pdf)

The Office of Developmental Programs (ODP) Medical Director, Dr. Gregory Cherpes, shares the impact of Covid-19 on the disability community during the January 28, 2022 webinar.

[Video](#)

[Equity Practices Hub](#) (education.pa.gov)

The purpose of the Equitable Practices Hub is to establish a coherent collection of resources that an educational community may use in promoting intentional equity in their communities. The resources have been hand-picked and reviewed, and represent best practices, models, and guidance from all their component parts.

[Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging in Pennsylvania: Perceptions and Clarity](#) (pdf)

Educational communities are seeking clarity around the purpose, intention, and need for equity, inclusion, and belonging in educational spaces. This information is provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Education to help address perceptions and offer clarity on equitable practices in education.

[FACT SHEET: Administration Announces New Actions to Address the Needs of People with Disabilities and Older Adults in Response to and Recovery from COVID-19 – Feb 2022](#)

The Biden Administration recognizes that the COVID-19 pandemic has had tremendous impacts on disabled individuals and has resulted in new members of the disability community.

Moving forward, the Administration will take several key steps to further our work to ensure that disabled individuals, regardless of where they live or the level of community transmission of the virus, have equitable access to COVID-19 testing, masks, and other critical mitigation strategies. The Administration remains committed to implementing these policies and developing additional policies in close collaboration with the disability community – keeping equity and accessibility at the center of our COVID-19 response and beyond.

[Faith-based Organization/Group Resources:](#)

<https://healthfund.org/a/wp-content/uploads/Faith-In-Vaccines-COVID-19-Toolkit.pdf>

<https://www.christiansandthevaccine.com/pastorstoolkit>

<https://hhs.co.yamhill.or.us/publichealth/faq/are-there-fetal-cells-covid-19-vaccine>

"I DON'T GET THE CARE I NEED": EQUITABLE ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE FOR MAINERS WITH DISABILITIES (pdf – DRME.org)

In 2022, DRM formed a Health Equity Work Group to identify systemic approaches to removing barriers and improving access to health care for people with disabilities across Maine. In doing this, one issue became glaringly apparent: there was a lack of data to characterize the issues that Mainers with disabilities face when seeking health care. DRM's Health Equity Work Group sought and received funding from the Maine Health Access Foundation to conduct a project to gather data and produce a report on barriers to health care for people with disabilities in Maine.

Key Details about Vaccines and Boosters & where to get them. (vaccines.gov)

We want to make COVID-19 vaccination easy and accessible to everyone. COVID-19 vaccines are free and available to anyone who wants one. We work with partners such as clinics, pharmacies, and health departments to promote accurate and up to date information about vaccination services in your area.

Key learnings from COVID-19 to sustain quality of life for families of individuals with IDD
(*Journal of Policy and Practice in Intellectual Disabilities*)

COVID-19 has very publicly had profound impacts on the health system of every country in the world. Over 4.5 million people have lost their lives. School closures worldwide where up to 1.6 billion of the world's children have been out of school, are also prominent in world news. Behind these public impacts are the families. In this paper, we focus on the experiences of families with people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) through analysis of two data sets: the emerging research literature and contributions from our author team who have lived experience of intellectual and developmental disability in the context of COVID-19. From these two data sets, we discern five themes of the impact of the pandemic: on health, on education, on services and supports, on families and finally on relationships beyond the family. We conclude with lessons from those living with intellectual and developmental disabilities, the caregivers and the individuals themselves to draw implications for supporting families in the context of disability during future pandemics.

Healthcare Access for People with Disabilities in Rural PA (pdf)

This report features stories from people with disabilities, their family members and caregivers about barriers to healthcare access. We collected these stories through surveys, face-to-face meetings, phone conversations, and public listening sessions during 2019 and 2020. The goal of this report is to document barriers, better understand the perspectives and needs of those facing them, and raise awareness of the need for improved accessibility.

Health Equity and COVID-19

(PA Department of Health)

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Department of Health has been working to promote justice, mitigate health inequities, and promote transparency. Here you'll find examples of work being done during COVID-19 to achieve health equity in Pennsylvania.

Health Equity Framework for People with Disabilities

National Council on Disability

NCD's Health Equity Framework is the outgrowth of an acknowledgment of decades of health disparities experienced by people with disabilities, and of physical and systemic barriers to access to healthcare for people with disabilities; and the desire to address these inequalities and achieve health

equity for all persons with disabilities. It is the product of a year's worth of strategic outreach; consultation with a "dream team" of 14 academics, medical professionals, and others who have dedicated their lives to addressing the health disparities of people with disabilities; and literature review.

[COVER LETTER: \(PDF\)](#) [FRAMEWORK: \(PDF\)](#)

[Health Equity Tracker](#)

COVID-19 Data by state and ethnicity

[The Immense Impact of Long COVID on Workers](#)

As we near the three-year mark of COVID-19 dominating headlines and workplace policies, the true impact of the pandemic on both workers and organizations remains largely unknown. Perhaps the least measured and understood aspect of COVID's imprint on the workplace is that of the condition known as long COVID. Long COVID can include a wide range of ongoing health problems that can last weeks, months, or years. With such a new disease, the long-term outcomes are truly unknowable at this point.

[Inclusive Health Principles and Strategies: How to make our Practices Inclusive of People with Intellectual Disabilities](#) (pdf <https://inclusivehealth.specialolympics.org/>)

This resource provides principles and strategies to help you ensure the full and sustainable inclusion of people with intellectual disabilities in health policies and laws, programming, services, training programs, research, and funding streams.

[I Speak... Language Identification Guide \(PDF\)](#)

This guide assists literate individuals who are not proficient in English to identify a preferred language.

[Disparities in Health Care in Medicare Advantage Associated with Dual Eligibility or Eligibility for a Low-Income Subsidy and Disability](#)

This report presents summary information on the performance of Medicare Advantage (MA) plans on specific measures of quality of health care reported in 2021, which corresponds to care received in 2020. Specifically, this report compares the quality of clinical care for four groups of MA enrollees that are defined based on the combination of two characteristics: (1) dual eligibility for both Medicare and Medicaid or eligibility for a Part D Low-Income Subsidy (LIS) and (2) disability.

[Long COVID Syndrome Presenting as Neuropsychiatric Exacerbations in Autism Spectrum Disorder: Insights for Treatment](#)

COVID-19 causes not only severe respiratory symptoms, but also long-term sequelae, even if the acute-phase symptoms are minor. Neurological and neuropsychiatric symptoms are emerging as major long-term sequelae. In patients with pre-existing behavioral symptoms, such as individuals with autism spectrum disorders (ASD), the emergence of neuropsychiatric symptoms due to long COVID can be difficult to diagnose and manage.

[National Roadmap for Disability-Inclusive Healthcare](https://www.inclusivecareroadmap.org/) (https://www.inclusivecareroadmap.org/)

The National Roadmap for Disability-Inclusive Healthcare (the Roadmap) is a plan created for clinicians to give the best healthcare possible to people with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities (IDD).

The Roadmap provides clear goals and commonsense actions that different groups can take to inspire change among both practicing clinicians and clinicians-in-training.

[NIHCM Infographics](#)

People with disabilities have been uniquely impacted by the pandemic as they face a greater risk of poor health outcomes, reduced access to routine services and care, and adverse social outcomes. Individuals with disabilities were more likely to face unemployment during the pandemic and those with intellectual and developmental disabilities were six times as likely to die from COVID-19 than other people. Additionally, people with disabilities experienced disparities in the public health response to COVID-19 due to lack of appropriate data collection and accessibility barriers in information, testing and vaccination. This infographic highlights the challenges facing the disability community as well as clear steps that can be taken to support the health and well-being of this community.

[PA Department of Health In Home Vaccination information](#)

Individuals can call the PACE Call Center at 1-800-424-4326 or the PA LINK at 1-800-753-8827 to connect with their local AAA. Individuals and families who are not currently receiving services or connected with either entity can still call the PACE or LINK numbers for help with getting their vaccine.

[Pennsylvania counties with the most racial and ethnic diversity in 2020 Census](#)

The U.S. Census Bureau has released some of the first detailed numbers from the 2020 Census. Hundreds of thousands of data points were released just for Pennsylvania. Note that the diversity index doesn't measure white versus non-white, or Hispanic versus non-Hispanic. It measures the variety of backgrounds within each racial group. Two counties that are 85% white could have different diversity indices if the backgrounds of the white people are a mixture of English, Italian, Turkish, Hungarian and Peruvian, for instance. The index will also increase the more racial groups are represented in the 15% of the non-white population, including Blacks, Pacific Islanders, Native Americans, Asians, etc.

[People-First Language](#)

People-first language is used to communicate appropriately and respectfully with and about an individual with a disability. People-first language emphasizes the person first, not the disability. For example, when referring to a person with a disability, refer to the person first, by using phrases such as, "a person who ...", "a person with ..." or, "person who has ..." These are some general tips you can follow.

[People with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities\(I/DD\): Telehealth Overview](#)

(Resources for Integrated Care – 2/2023)

Telehealth has been increasing in popularity and usage in the US healthcare system over the past 12 years. However, despite marked strides in increasing access for older adults and individuals in rural areas, it wasn't until the COVID-19 PHE that many organizations and policymakers realized the positive impact telehealth could have on individuals with I/DD.

[Readability of COVID-19 vaccine information for the general public](#)

This study, which analyzed fact sheets for three of the major U.S. vaccine manufacturers and other informational material, found that most of the COVID-19 vaccine-related informational materials did not meet appropriate readability levels for the U.S. population.

[Plain Language in Public Health \(pdf\)](#)

In this guide, you'll find plain language principles, simple techniques that can make your communications more accessible, and resources to learn more about plain language. The sections of this guide contain best practices and tools to use before you start writing, when you're organizing your content, while you're writing, and when you're reviewing and testing your communications. The guide ends with additional resources to help you continue to build your plain language communications skills.

[Roadmap to Whole Person Health](#)

At the direction of Governor Tom Wolf, the Department of Human Services (DHS) has undertaken many different reforms that have progressed our Commonwealth towards a vision of Whole Person Health. The goal is to create a healthcare system that is increasingly designed to meet the holistic needs of each person, instead of forcing each person try and fit their needs into a siloed healthcare system. Down to the cellular level, each person is a complicated conglomeration of emotions, behaviors, and organic chemistry, born and raised in vastly different circumstances and communities across the Commonwealth with varying levels of institutional barriers and opportunities that manifest themselves in different ways throughout a person's lifetime. This beautiful complexity demands a healthcare system that conforms to whole persons and individual needs, and not the other way around.

[Talking to Patients who have intellectual and developmental disabilities about COVID-19](#) (pdf) CDC.gov

As a healthcare provider, you work hard to help your patients stay healthy and safe from COVID-19. When you're talking with patients who have intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD), it's especially important to make sure your message is simple and clear. These tips can help you talk to patients with IDD about COVID-19.

[Toolkit for People with Disabilities](#)

This toolkit contains resources for organizations and people that want to help increase confidence in and uptake of COVID-19 vaccines among people with disabilities. It includes information from CDC and new, culturally tailored materials from the HHS COVID-19 public education campaign and its team of multicultural experts.

[The Arc of PA – What We Know Now - Infographic](#)

COVID-19 Health Barriers and Disparities Among Rural and Minority Populations and People with Disabilities

[Understanding and Planning for Sustainability A Guide for Multi-Sector Community Partnerships Working to Address Social Determinants of Health](#) (pdf)

This guide walks users through a step-by-step process beginning with a broad view of the dimensions of sustainability for community multi-sector coalitions and partnerships addressing social determinants of health (SDOH).

[Universal Design \(Fact Sheet\)](https://inclusivehealth.specialolympics.org/) (pdf <https://inclusivehealth.specialolympics.org/>)

Universal Design (UD) is an approach organizations use to help achieve inclusion and create inclusive practices. UD benefits not only to our communities but also businesses and organizations; if products or services are barrier free, more people can access services or buy products and, ultimately, organizations can better serve their communities.

[Using Person Centered Language \(in health care settings\)](#) (pdf)

This tip sheet provides practical and meaningful tips on the use of person-centered language. Health plan staff and providers can incorporate person centered language in all communication with individuals, families, and caregivers; and in marketing materials, internal meetings, care planning, and documentation.

[Vaccines Currently Approved or Authorized in the United States](#)

When Are You Up to Date?

You are up to date with your COVID-19 vaccines when you have followed the current recommendations listed below. The recommendations will be different depending on your age, your health status, and when you first got vaccinated. This link will take you to the CDC website and it's recommended vaccine dose and booster timeframes.
