

Vaccinating people with a learning disability

A communication from NHSE/I

Those with a severe and profound learning disability are eligible for the vaccine as part of cohort 6 and are an important patient group we must ensure we reach.

Multimorbidity is extremely common in this population, with a mean number of co-morbidities of eleven (Kinneir Glasgow). Therefore, a high proportion of people will fall into priority group 6 (Green Book Covid 14a) regardless of whether they have been flagged as having a severe or profound learning disability. However, many of these criteria can be hard to search for e.g. different types of congenital heart disease. The Green Book advises that clinical judgement should be used. So, we suggest that given the challenge of running complex searches to find small sub-groups, pragmatism and inclusivity is recommended.

Tailored invitation letters for local vaccination sites to use to invite people with a learning disability to their COVID-19 vaccination is available on [FutureNHS platform](#).

If you are vaccinating in a residential setting (such as care homes or supported living for people with a learning disability or mental health problems) and it is not possible for these patients to attend vaccination sites, PCN groupings should then work with CCG, ICS, local authority and other partners to find other ways to vaccinate. The most effective ways should be established to serve all of these residential settings and specific groups to determine the most appropriate vaccination delivery model for them. [An additional payment has been made available for vaccinating in a residential setting.](#)

This message has been reinforced at the monthly GP webinar on Thursday 4th March. We plan to share all of the accessible resources that have now been published, to support clinicians to communicate with people with a learning disability and ensure that vaccination appointments go well:

Accessible resources produced in collaboration with people with lived experience and Public Health England to support clinicians in communicating with people with a learning disability and their family carers:

[Covid Vaccine film](#) produced in collaboration with Skills for People and Learning Disability England

PHE [easy read Covid vaccination leaflet](#)

PHE [easy read What to expect after the vaccine leaflet](#)

PHE [Easy read adult consent form](#)

Additional [training materials for COVID 19 vaccinators and volunteers](#) provide top tips on communicating with people with a learning disability and autistic people and reasonable adjustments that should be considered.