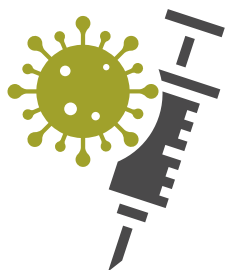


# Who Should Get COVID-19 Shots First?



States are starting to give people shots to protect them from the virus that causes COVID-19. Some groups of people, like older adults and people living in nursing homes, are getting their shots first. That's because older people and people in nursing homes are more likely to get very sick from COVID, or even die of it. But they aren't the only ones.

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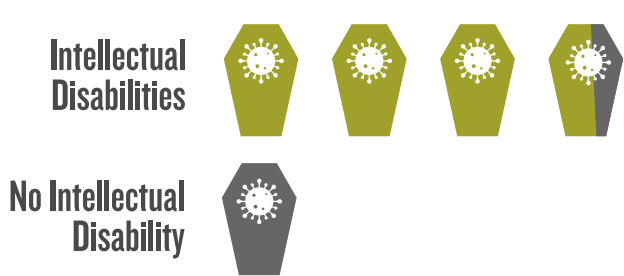
**Disabled people under 65 who get help in their homes are also at higher risk of getting very sick from, or dying of, COVID. They should get their COVID shots early, too.**

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But in many states, only older adults and people in nursing homes are getting shots. People with disabilities under age 65 who live in their own homes have to wait, even though COVID is dangerous for them, too.

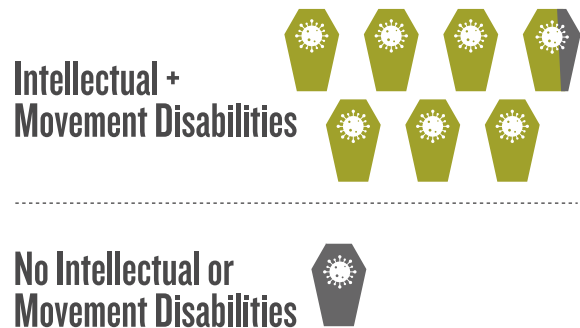


People who get help in their homes have a lot of workers, like direct-care workers and nurses, coming over every day. Those workers help other people, too. The more people workers see, the more likely the workers are to catch and spread the virus. This isn't safe, because many people with disabilities are more likely to get very sick or die.



For example, people with intellectual disabilities are almost 4 times as likely to die of COVID compared with people without intellectual disabilities.

Many people with intellectual disabilities also have trouble walking or get seizures. People who have seizures or have trouble walking are twice as likely to die of COVID as people without those disabilities. People with intellectual disabilities who also have seizures or trouble walking are almost 7 times as likely to die of COVID as people without disabilities.



It's not just people with intellectual disabilities who are at higher risk of dying of COVID. People with other kinds of disabilities are at higher risk, too. People with disabilities who need help in their homes often have several health problems, such as high blood pressure, diabetes, asthma, liver disease, or heart disease, that make COVID more dangerous. On average, they have around 5 health problems. People with 4 or more health problems are at least 6 times as likely to die of COVID as people without those health problems. They also use the hospital and emergency room more, so there are more chances for them to come in contact with the virus.

**People with disabilities who need help in their homes are at least 3 times more likely to die of COVID than other people their age. They are also more likely to come into contact with the virus when workers come to visit them. We should also put them at the top of the list for COVID shots to keep them safe.**

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