



CENTER FOR
DIGNITY IN
HEALTHCARE FOR
PEOPLE WITH
DISABILITIES



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COVID-19 Vaccine Prioritization Dashboard just launched for People with Disabilities

[Johns Hopkins University Disability Health Research Center](#) and the [Center for Dignity in Healthcare for People with Disabilities](#) have partnered to create a [COVID-19 Vaccine Prioritization Dashboard](#). This dashboard aims to give people a better understanding for how each state is prioritizing the disability community in COVID-19 vaccine distribution. It will also help people with disabilities determine when they qualify for a COVID-19 vaccine in their state.

The COVID-19 Vaccine Prioritization Dashboard tracks vaccine prioritization plans across four categories, including: long-term care settings, congregate care facilities, chronic illness/medical conditions, and additional developmental disability groups. Long-term care settings, such as nursing homes, have been prioritized in the first phase for 49 states, while group homes, which have been categorized as ‘other types of congregate care settings,’ fall into a separate category in 27 states. One could quickly see how confusing this might become for someone trying to figure out when they or their loved one are being prioritized in their current state. This dashboard aims to help people better understand the prioritization system and to help drive better policy solutions in the future.

“This project aims to promote healthcare equity for people with disabilities in two ways,” says Dr. Kara Ayers, Director for the Center for Dignity in Healthcare for People with Disabilities. “First, we want to help people understand the complex prioritization systems in their states so that they know when they have a right to a vaccine. We also want to empower advocates with the information they need to be part of these important policy-making discussions and decisions at the state level. The disability community needs a place at these tables. Our lives are at stake.”

Dr. Bonnielin Swenor, Director of the Johns Hopkins Disability Health Research Center states, “COVID-19 has unequally impacted people with disabilities, and although over a quarter of American adults has a disability, the pandemic response has infrequently focused on our community. By compiling state-level COVID-19 vaccine prioritization data for people with disabilities, this dashboard aims to advance equity in the pandemic response.”

The Center for Dignity in Healthcare for People with Disabilities aims to identify and reduce life-limiting healthcare inequities for people with disabilities. Johns Hopkins University Disability Health Research Center is aimed at shifting the paradigm from ‘living with a disability’ to ‘thriving with a disability’ and maximizing the health, equity, and inclusion of people with disabilities.

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