

## **COVID-19 Vaccine: Who Should Get the COVID-19 Vaccine?**

*What is this about?*

- The COVID-19 vaccine will not be available to everyone right away. There are many people who need and want the vaccine, but it will take time to make it and give it to everyone.
- Experts are deciding who should get the COVID-19 vaccine first.
- We want people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and direct support professionals to be some of the first people to get the COVID-19 vaccine.

*Why is the COVID-19 vaccine important for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities?*

- Many people with intellectual and developmental disabilities live in group homes and attend day programs where they are around many other people. This means that they are more likely to be in contact with someone who has COVID-19.
- Some people with intellectual and developmental disabilities who get COVID-19 get sicker than people that get COVID-19 who do not have intellectual and developmental disabilities. This is because people with intellectual and developmental disabilities are more likely to have illnesses that make it hard for their body to fight the disease.
- People with intellectual and developmental disabilities who get COVID-19 die from COVID-19 more often than people that get COVID-19 who do not have intellectual and developmental disabilities.

*Why is the COVID-19 vaccine important for direct support professionals who support people with intellectual and developmental disabilities?*

- Direct support professionals work to keep people with intellectual and developmental disabilities healthy and safe every day.
- Direct support professionals are at a higher risk of getting COVID-19 because it is their job to help people with intellectual and developmental disabilities with personal activities like brushing their teeth.

*How should the COVID-19 vaccine be given out?*

- People with intellectual and developmental disabilities should get the vaccine at the same time as other high-risk groups (older adults, individuals living in group settings)
- Direct support professionals should get the COVID-19 vaccine at the same time that other health care workers get the COVID-19 vaccine.
- The COVID-19 vaccine should be available at places that people can easily get to.