

A statement from SCLD about vaccinations



The Scottish Commission for People With Learning Disabilities (SCLD) is unhappy about the COVID-19 vaccinations programme.



We think it is not fair for people with learning disabilities.



People with learning disabilities already have worse health than people without learning disabilities.

People with learning disabilities do not usually live as long as people without learning disabilities.

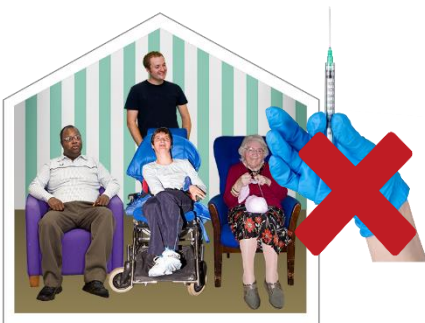


The vaccination programme is meant to help even up this kind of unfairness.



But SCLD has been told about problems that are making things worse for people with learning disabilities.

Problems with the vaccination programme for people with learning disabilities



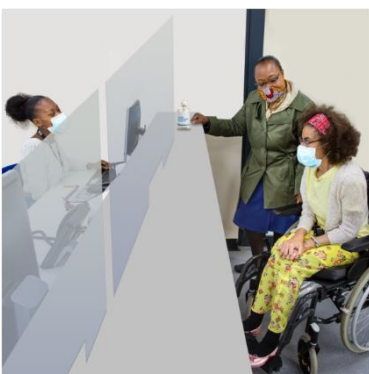
People living in older people's care homes got the vaccine first.

People with learning disabilities living in learning disability care homes did not get the vaccine at the same time.



GPs have the job of deciding which people with learning disabilities should be **high priority** for a vaccination.

High priority means they should get the vaccination early on.



But sometimes GPs do not know people with learning disabilities well enough to say if they should be **high priority**.



Some people have told us they cannot get to speak to their GP when they have questions about vaccinations.

It is harder for some people with learning disabilities to get a vaccination



Some people with learning disabilities might find it hard to understand what a vaccine does.

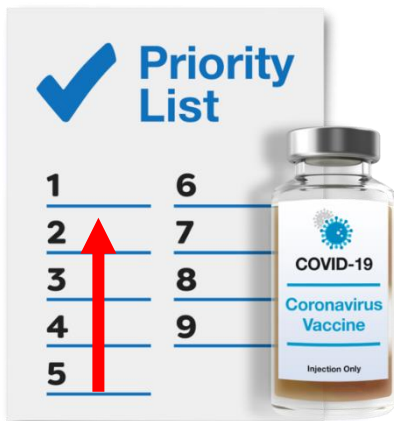


They might find it hard to decide if they want to get a vaccination.



Some people with learning disabilities might be very anxious about getting a vaccination.

What should be done to make the vaccination programme fairer



All adults with a learning disability should be made a **high priority** for a vaccination.

This means they should be in the sixth group for vaccinations or higher.



I have not had my vaccine appointment

There needs to be a clear way to ask about getting the vaccination if people are worried because they have not received an invitation to go for it.



Accessible Information Standard

The NHS Patient Portal and the National Helpline should provide clear and accessible information.



People with learning disabilities should be able to have their vaccination at a place that suits them.



This could be at home or at the GP practice or another place close to their home.



They should be able to have a supporter with them.



The supporter should be offered a vaccination at the same time.

What else should happen to improve the health of people with learning disabilities



GPs should make sure that they record information about people with learning disabilities accurately and keep these records up to date.



Other health workers should have access to this information to help them understand the health needs of people with learning disabilities.



SCLD knows that the vaccination programme is a very big task and that everyone is working very hard.



It is important that everyone follows the best advice to make sure that the health of people with learning disabilities is looked after fairly.

