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## NCD recommends COVID-19 vaccine allocation equity for individuals with

### For Immediate Release

Dec. 15, 2020

**WASHINGTON--**The National Council on Disability (NCD) recommends vaccine allocation equity for individuals with

As the distribution and allocations of a safe and effective vaccine against COVID-19 continues, state governments and health care providers must determine effective and equitable frameworks. All state and family members who provide support to them.

NCD specifically recommends the following be included in all vaccine allocation frameworks:

Individuals with I/DD should be included in the list of high-risk diagnoses used to determine vaccine priority. Compared to individuals with other diagnoses, individuals with I/DD face alarmingly higher complication and mortality rates from COVID-19, with mortality rates up to 15 percent. Current vaccine allocation frameworks prioritize groups at lower risk, but prioritizing individuals with I/DD can result in severe complications and death, but prioritizing individuals with I/DD can result in severe complications and death. Additionally, those who live with or care for individuals with I/DD should be included in the same phase of vaccine allocation.

Group homes and other congregate residential settings should be considered equivalent risk to nursing homes and other long-term care facilities. Individuals with I/DD who live in these settings should be included in equivalent phases of vaccine allocation.

On top of the baseline increased risk for severe disease and death from COVID-19, many individuals with I/DD face additional risk from living in congregate residential settings. The increased risk from living in congregate residential settings. The increased proportion of COVID-19 related deaths in older adults who live in long-term care facilities and congregate living is well documented. Accordingly, this population is prioritized in the early phases of nearly all vaccine allocation frameworks. Individuals with I/DD who live in group settings should be considered at equivalent risk and included in the same phase of vaccine allocation.

DSPs should be designated as essential healthcare workers and included in frameworks accordingly. They provide essential support to individuals with I/DD, including work that involves direct exposure to aerosols and bodily fluids. As a result, they are at significantly higher risk for exposure to and contraction of COVID-19. In order to protect DSPs and the individuals they support, all DSPs

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and developmental disabilities (I/DD).  
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In September, NCD submitted recommendations to the [National Academies](#) regarding framework of potential distribution plans for a COVID-19 vaccine.

**About the National Council on Disability:** First established as an advisory council within the Department of Education in 1978, NCD became an independent federal agency in 1984. In 1986, NCD recommended enactment of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and drafted the first version of the bill which was introduced in the House and Senate in 1988. Since enactment of the ADA in 1990, NCD has continued to play a leading role in crafting disability policy, and advising the President, Congress and other federal agencies on disability policy.



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