

Arc Issues Action Alert Regarding Vaccinations



Individuals with I/DD MUST be Prioritized in Receiving COVID-19 Vaccinations!

Individuals with I/DD are at greatest risk of death from COVID-19 after those of older age/elderly!

WE NEED YOU TO TAKE ACTION NOW!

On March 5th, Jefferson Health released an [ANALYSIS](#) from a national study confirming that those with intellectual disabilities (ID) are at **greatest risk of death from COVID-19 after those of older age/elderly.** The authors of the study examined over 64 million medical records across the nation to better understand how COVID-19 impacts the intellectual disability community.

“The results showed that those with intellectual disabilities were 2.5 times more likely to contract COVID-19, were about 2.7 times more likely to be admitted to the hospital and 5.9 times more likely to die from the infection than the general population.”

The findings of this study illustrate the clear need for the PA Interim Vaccination Plan to be re-evaluated and prioritize the health and safety of all individuals with IDD with a designated allocation of vaccines. Currently, the PA Interim Vaccination Plan prioritizes some individuals with IDD in Phase 1A, but the majority remain in Phase 1B. This decision is life threatening as all individuals with IDD are at risk of death from COVID-19 six times higher than the general population. Action must be taken to protect the IDD population and ensure prioritization and access for not only those who live in congregate settings but those in community, cared for by their families. **Pennsylvania must prioritize all individuals with IDD in Phase 1A and/or allocate vaccines specifically for the IDD community, similar to the initiative in vaccinating teachers and school workers.**

We need you to TAKE ACTION now and advocate to Governor Tom Wolf that individuals with IDD must be prioritized in Phase 1A of the PA Vaccination Plan and/or be designated for a special allocation of vaccination. Click [HERE](#) to advocate to Governor Wolf now!

We also ask you to email the members of the Joint Task Force advocating to them on why individuals with IDD need to be prioritized for the vaccine by completing the steps below:

1. Copy and paste the blurb in italics below into an email:

On March 5th, Jefferson Health released an analysis from a national study confirming that those with intellectual disabilities (ID) are at greatest risk of death from COVID-19 after those of older age/elderly.

“The results showed that those with intellectual disabilities were 2.5 times more likely to contract COVID-19, were about 2.7 times more likely to be admitted to the hospital and 5.9 times more likely to die from the infection than the general population.”

The findings of this study illustrate the clear need for the Pennsylvania Interim Vaccination Plan to be re-evaluated and to prioritize the health and safety of all individuals with IDD through prioritization in Phase 1A of the PA Vaccination Rollout Plan and/or with a designated allocation of vaccines.

The IDD community of Pennsylvania calls on you to prioritize individuals with IDD for the COVID-19 vaccine either by moving them to Phase 1A or utilize a special allocation of vaccines, similar to PA teachers and school workers.

2. Send the email to the following email addresses in blue below:

- Senator Ryan Aument: raument@pasen.gov
- Senator Art Haywood: art.haywood@pasenate.com
- Representative Bridget Kosierowski: bkosierowski@pahouse.net
- Representative Timothy O'Neal: toneal@pahousegop.com

Thank you for your work and advocacy on this key issue!

The Arc of Pennsylvania continues to advocate to on behalf of the I/DD Community and the need for Pennsylvania to prioritize the community's access to the COVID-19 vaccination!

Take Action NOW - Email Governor Wolf

