

Inclusive and Accessible Health Resources during the COVID-19 pandemic

As we slowly reopen our communities and economy, we should be mindful of those in our community that are considered higher risk and ensure that the health needs of people of all abilities are considered and supported.

There are many COVID – 19 resources available to support community members with disabilities in staying healthy during the pandemic that have been developed by local organizations:

- [Green Mountain Self-Advocates](#): A local organization that is committed to supporting and empowering Vermonters with developmental disabilities, developed the booklet, [Plain Language Guide About COVID-19 Information By and For People with Disabilities](#)
- [Vermont Family Network](#): Provides support and resources to parents, families, and caregivers of children with disabilities and special health needs, including information on their website on COVID-19.
- [Vermont Center for Independent Living](#): A non-profit directed and staffed by people with disabilities that supports Vermonters with disabilities to achieve self-determination and full participation in community life, has also included information for the people they serve.

There are also some national institutions that have great information about supporting the health of people with disabilities:

- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#): Specific web pages on promoting the health of people with disabilities and other populations considered at higher risk for becoming more severely sick by COVID-19.
- [Oregon Health and Science University, University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities](#): Resources and information about COVID-19 that is accessible to people of all abilities, including short videos, online training classes, and webinars.
- [American Association on Health and Disability](#): A series of informational videos on disability and COVID-19, including information on state policies, including those related to Medicaid and access to health care.

The Chronic Disease and Disability Program has been working closely with community partners to ensure COVID-19 information is accessible to Vermonters of all abilities. The program also continues to work with other chronic disease programs at the Department of Health, such as Oral Health, Tobacco Control, and Cancer Control to ensure all health programming and information is accessible and inclusive.