



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

March 15, 2022

Thanks to all who were able to join last week's call for Americans with disabilities. Included below are some of the resources discussed on the call:

**Resources mentioned by HHS OCR Director Lisa J. Pino**

Non-discrimination is central to President Biden's [National Strategy for the COVID-19 Response and Pandemic Preparedness, - PDF](#) including his Executive Order on [Ensuring an Equitable Pandemic Response and Recovery](#) and [Improving and Expanding Access to Care and Treatments for COVID-19](#). HHS OCR has issued a number of guidance documents throughout COVID-19 to ensure that civil rights are protected during the pandemic and that non-discrimination is a central part of the Nation's efforts to test, vaccinate, and treat the public regardless of race, color, national origin, disability, gender, age, or sex. For example:

- OCR's February 4, 2022 guidance makes clear that in light of the continuing public health emergency, when resources can be scarce, it is vital that individuals with disabilities are not prevented from receiving needed health care benefits and services as this violates federal civil rights laws.
  - [Read the Guidance](#) (February 4, 2022)
  - [Read the Press Release](#)
- OCR's July 26, 2021 joint guidance on "Long COVID" and Disability Rights Under the ADA, Section 504, and Section 1557 with the Department of Justice that provides clarity on how disability nondiscrimination laws apply to individuals experiencing symptoms after COVID-19.
  - [Read the Guidance](#)
  - [Read the Press Release](#)

- OCR has issued guidance reviewing legal standards and best practices for improving access to COVID-19 vaccination programs and ensuring nondiscrimination on the basis of race, color, and national origin:
  - [Read the Guidance](#)
  - [Read the Press Release](#)
- OCR has issued multiple guidance documents to inform individuals of their rights under federal disability laws and to provide technical assistance to providers on their obligations during public health emergencies, including COVID-19. [These may be found on OCR's Civil Rights and COVID web page.](#)
- **Input needed: DHS proposed updates to the "Public Charge" rule**

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- [Biography: SAIDR Sara Minkara](#)
  - **Fact Sheet: Advancing Disability Inclusive Democracy in the United States and Globally**

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- [Statement by President Biden on Texas' Attacks on Transgender Youth](#)
  - [Statement by HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra Reaffirming HHS Support and Protection for LGBTQI+ Children and Youth](#)
  - Order your 2nd set of 4 free at-home tests at [COVIDtests.org](https://COVIDtests.org)
  - [National COVID-19 Preparedness Plan](#)

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Our next Disabled stakeholder call is scheduled for  
Thursday, April 14th at 2pm ET  
ASL and CART will be provided  
[Register to join by clicking here](#)

