

**The Covid 19 Vaccine and people with learning disabilities:  
An easy read summary of the report**



In February 2021, Learning Disability England published a report about the Covid 19 vaccine and people with learning disabilities.

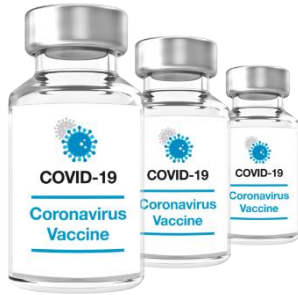


The report looks at the work Learning Disability England members have done to campaign for **all people with learning disabilities to get the vaccine as a priority.**



The report also talks about the work partners and the whole learning disability community have done to raise awareness.

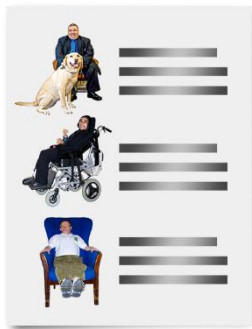
## Background



In November 2020, some of the vaccines that were still being tested were nearly ready for approval.



Learning Disability England members began to talk more about who would get the vaccine first.



A lot of members said they wanted to see **ALL people with a learning disability** and their family and friends who were **unpaid carers** made a priority for the vaccine.



So, Learning Disability England began to campaign.



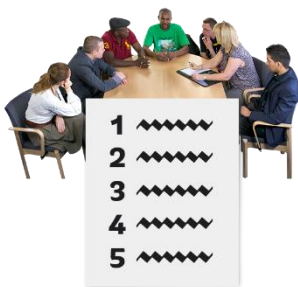
The Representative Body Co Chairs wrote to politicians.



They worked with partners to send an Open letter to the JCVI.



The JCVI stands for the Joint Commission for Vaccines and Immunisation.



The JCVI decide who gets the vaccine first.

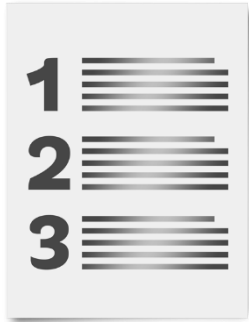


And the Representative Body Co Chairs wrote to Jonathan Van Tam.

He is the Deputy Chief Medical Officer.



People with Down's Syndrome were added to the priority vaccine list.



People with 'severe' learning disabilities were added to the priority list.

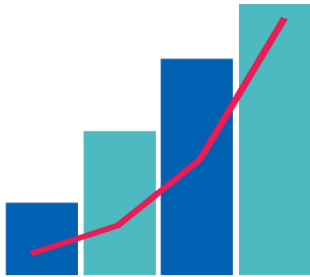


Unpaid family carers were added to the priority list.

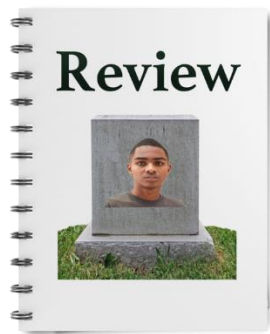


But the JCVI wrote back and said they would **not** add ALL people with learning disabilities to the priority list.

## Why this is important



People with learning disabilities have experienced health inequalities for years.



The LeDeR reports have shown that **people with learning disabilities die younger** than the rest of the population.



Learning Disability England thinks all people with learning disabilities should be made a priority for the vaccine because **too many people with learning disabilities are dying from Covid 19.**

## A postcode lottery?



The JCVI guidance says that local areas and local GPs can **act flexibly.**



This means they can **make their own minds up** about whether someone should have the vaccine as a priority.



The JCVI says that means if someone with learning disabilities really needs the vaccine, **their doctor can make them a priority.**



And **some areas** are deciding that they will offer every person with learning disabilities a priority vaccine.



But that means some people with learning disabilities are getting the vaccine.

And some are not.



It depends on who your doctor is and where you live.



Learning Disability England thinks this is not fair.



We want the JCVI to **change their guidance** so all people with learning disabilities can have a priority vaccine.

## What next?



People with learning disabilities and their families are writing to their MPs.



Two people with learning disabilities have **taken Matt Hancock, the Secretary of State to court** to try and make him change the rules.



And Learning Disability England and the wider learning disability community will **keep campaigning** to try to get everyone with learning disabilities a vaccine as soon as possible.