



Community Resilience Initiative - Vaccine Access

Why are we talking about vaccines?

- Many people are not yet vaccinated.
- There will likely be boosters in the foreseeable future.
- CILs can make a huge difference in the vaccination rate of people with disabilities.

Vaccination Process Must be Accessible to People with Disabilities including during

- Making an appointment online, by phone, and in person
- Checking in for the vaccine
- Waiting in line for the vaccine
- Receiving the vaccine
- Waiting after vaccination

Vaccination sites have obligations under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the Rehabilitation Act (where federal funds are allocated).

Requirements under the ADA include the obligation for vaccine sites to provide:

- Equally effective communication for people with speech, visual and hearing disabilities
- Non-discrimination in operations including not having discriminatory eligibility criteria, not having surcharges, allowing services animals and making reasonable modifications to policies and practices
- Program and facility accessibility

CILs Can Facilitate the vaccination process by:

- Setting up accessible vaccination clinics at CILs
- Collaborating with public health providers at other vaccine sites
- Advocate that vaccine sites are accessible as required by law and that they go beyond legal requirements when necessary to ensure that disabled people get vaccinated
- Educate to address vaccine hesitancy

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CILs have:

- Provided mobile vaccination sites that can bring vaccines to or near a person's home
- Coordinated vaccination programs with public health and other community-based organizations
- Hosted vaccine sites

Good and promising practices used by CILs at vaccination sites include providing:

- Stress balls
- Fidget devices
- Chairs
- Weighted blankets
- Peer support
- Quiet, low stimulation areas
- Badges with photos on them

Delaware has lots of important information about people with disabilities and vaccines on its website:

- The Delaware Division of Public Health created the following resource, [“COVID-19 Vaccine Information for Persons With Disabilities or Access and Functional Needs.”](#)
- Contact the DPH Vaccine Call Center at 1-833-643-1715 (press option 3) or email vaccine@delaware.gov to request accommodations at a state-coordinated vaccination site.

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