

Vaccinations for people with a Learning Disability

If you need extra support,
please contact the
vaccination support team
via the PALS and
Complaints team at Bath
and North East Somerset,
Swindon and Wiltshire ICB
Tel: 0300 561 0250

Has the person had their COVID / Flu vaccination?

Yes

No

No further action

Do you have reason to doubt their
capacity?

Yes

No

Proceed with vaccination

Undertake a mental capacity assessment
<https://www.bma.org.uk/advice-and-support/ethics/adults-who-lack-capacity/mental-capacity-act-toolkit>
Does the assessment confirm they lack capacity?

Yes

No

Is there a legal decision - making
authority (Court Appointed
Deputy of Lasting Power
Attorney) for Health and Welfare?

No

Best Interest Decision
Making
[bma-best-interests-toolkit-
2019.pdf](https://www.bma.org.uk/advice-and-support/ethics/adults-who-lack-capacity/bma-best-interests-toolkit-2019.pdf)

Proceed with vaccination

Yes

LPA or Court- appointed deputy to give consent

Further information for patients: FLU & COVID VIDEOS
[Flu vaccinations for people with a learning disability
\(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dF0O1d800jU)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dF0O1d800jU>

Reasonable Adjustments and Resources

Reasonable Adjustments Examples - This list is not exhaustive:

1. Check the person's summary care record for any specific needs
2. Where possible, hold the appointment in a local and familiar place
3. Offer to give the vaccine at home or in their car/cab, if possible, home visits should be based on assessed need
4. Schedule appointment times at the quietest times of the day
5. Provide double appointment times so you are not rushed
6. Check if the person is scared of needles. Find out what may help them
7. The option of waiting in a quiet room, if one is available
8. The option of waiting in their car outside and being texted or called on their mobile when ready
9. Talk to the person in a kind and friendly way throughout their appointment to ease anxiety
10. Using plain English and no medical jargon
11. Having easy read and accessible resources, materials and information to hand
12. Check they have fully understood what you have told them by asking them and their carer
13. Provide a quiet or less brightly lit space
14. Send a reminder before the appointment by calling or texting
15. Check what might help to distract the person or to help keep them calm

Useful Resources for COVID and Flu Vaccinations:

- [COVID-19 vaccination: easy-read leaflets - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/covid-19-vaccination-easy-read-leaflets)
- [NHS England » Creating the right environment for people with a learning disability to have their COVID vaccine](https://www.nhs.uk/england/creating-the-right-environment-for-people-with-a-learning-disability-to-have-their-covid-vaccine)
- [About the COVID-19 vaccine | Mencap](https://www.mencap.org.uk/about-the-covid-19-vaccine)
- [Books Beyond Words: Having a Vaccine](https://www.booksbeyondwords.org.uk/having-a-vaccine)
- <https://www.mencap.org.uk/easyread/vaccines>

If someone isn't sure what would help them, but appears to be distressed, it is ok to make some suggestions and let them decide what might be helpful, but don't overwhelm them with too many options – Keep it simple