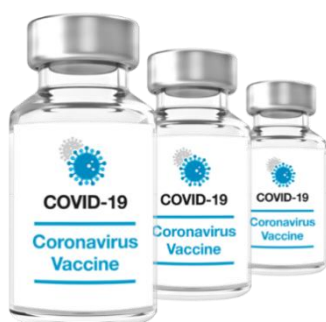




**Speak to your GP about
having the coronavirus
vaccine**



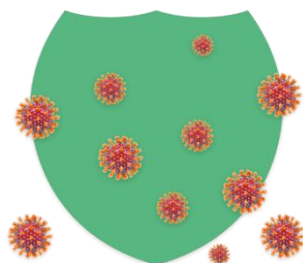
Coronavirus is a virus that can make you very unwell.



The coronavirus vaccine can help to stop you getting very unwell from coronavirus.



The coronavirus vaccine is a small injection of medicine into the arm that helps our bodies learn how to fight coronavirus.



The vaccine teaches your body how to fight coronavirus if you get it.

You can [find out more about the vaccine here.](#)



The Government has put people most at risk from coronavirus into different priority groups.



Priority means people who can get the vaccine first.



Each group has a number, and the NHS started with Group 1.



The first priority groups to get the vaccine were older people and people who are most at risk of becoming very sick if they get coronavirus (Groups 1, 2, 3 and 4)



People with Down's syndrome should have been invited for vaccination by now as they are in Group 4.



If you have Down's syndrome, and you have not been offered the vaccine yet, contact your GP to let them know.



The priority groups get the vaccine first, but everyone who wants it should get a vaccine in the end.

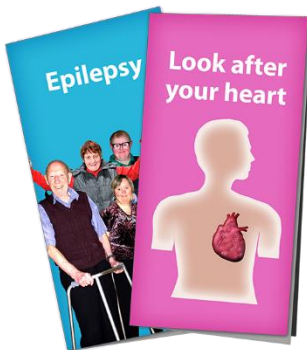


GPs in England have now have been asked to start vaccinating people in the next priority groups (Groups 5 and 6).



Group 6 includes most people with a learning disability.

Group 6 includes:



- People with health conditions such as diabetes, epilepsy, heart conditions, very bad asthma or dementia.



- People with a severe or profound learning disability.



- People with physical disabilities like cerebral palsy or Parkinson's.



- People living in a care home or supported living



Most people with a learning disability are in Priority Group 6.



GPs are inviting people in Group 6 to come for their vaccines in the next few weeks.



The NHS have said they might find it hard to find all the people with a learning disability who should be invited for the vaccine.



If you have a learning disability, it is a good idea to talk to your GP surgery about the vaccine as soon as possible.



Tell the receptionist that you have a learning disability and that you want to make sure you are on the list.



The receptionist might not be able to book you an appointment right away.



**This is the NHS calling
to make a Covid-19
vaccine appointment**

They might say you need to wait until they send you an appointment.



Ask when you should call back if you haven't heard from them.



Do call them again if you do not hear from them.



You may want to ask to speak to your GP or a nurse.



The GP or nurse can help you understand more about the vaccine.



It is a good idea to understand as much as you can about the vaccine.



It will help you make choices about whether you want to have the vaccine.



Why is getting the vaccine important for people with a learning disability?



We know that people with a learning disability are more at risk from coronavirus.



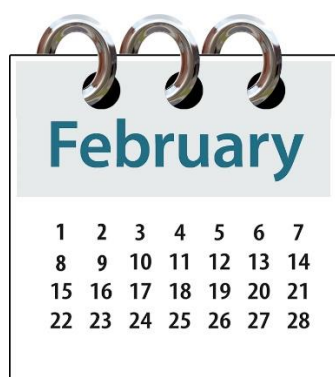
Sadly, many people with a learning disability have died from coronavirus.



We also know that some people with a learning disability will find it harder to get the healthcare they need if they do become very unwell.



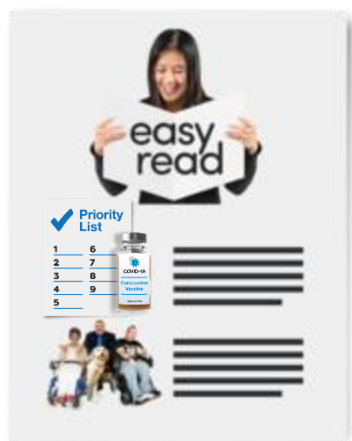
Because of this, Mencap think it is important that everyone with a learning disability should be offered the vaccine as soon as possible.



GP surgeries will start to invite people with a learning disability in Group 6 for the vaccine in the last 2 weeks of February.



If you have a learning disability and you haven't been contacted by your GP, get in touch with your GP surgery to check if you are on the list.



You could use this document to help you explain why you think it is important for you to have the vaccine.



If you need advice or support, you can contact the Learning Disability Helpline on 0808 808 1111 or [click here to send us a message](#).



You may also want to speak to the nurses in your local community learning disability team if you have any problems.