

For people with intellectual  
and developmental disabilities

## Vaccines - What is The Arc Doing to Advocate for People with IDD?

1. The Arc of Colorado and several execs from the local chapters have been meeting with the Governor's office to advocate that people with IDD need to be prioritized on the waiting list for vaccines due to increased risk of hospitalization and death from COVID.
2. The Colorado Developmental Disability Council took the lead early on in this effort and our chapter signed on to their letter - see attached.
3. The Arcs in CO have had several meetings and email communications with the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing regarding this issue. So far that has only resulted in them saying that we need to advocate individually. (Make sure we have documentation for other diagnoses that may prioritize our folks - diagnoses other than IDD)
4. Our chapter has attended all meetings that we have been informed of with Tri-County Health and Arapahoe and Douglas counties. We have advocated for people with IDD to be prioritized on the waiting list for vaccines at each of these meetings in writing.
5. Our read of the vaccine roll-out is that it is the Wild Wild West. We are hearing of people with IDD getting vaccinated and people trying to get on the lists. We have also not been able to get a straight answer from anyone. Some people are on "stand-by" lists and if they can get to a place that has extra vaccines within a short period of time, they can get vaccinated.
6. As we monitor communications from the Governor and the health departments, it seems that they too are not able to get a straight answer as to how many vaccines they expect to get and when those vaccines will be available.
7. The Arcs sent a letter to the Governor's Medical Advisory Group Subcommittee and the Governor's Expert Emergency Epidemic Response Committee asking for people with IDD to be prioritized.

So far there is not a plan for media communication from chapters of The Arc. However, families are starting to communicate with the media individually.

Hope this is helpful. We are on it, but it is a mess. Please keep us informed of any information that you get that we can share with others in our community.