

Coronavirus and people with learning disabilities

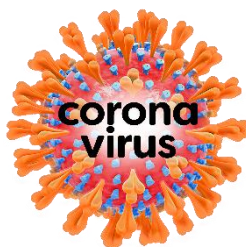
What's happening for people and their families in May 2021?



We are university researchers. Researchers ask people questions to find out new information.



We want to ask questions about coronavirus and people with learning disabilities.



The coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has meant a lot of changes for everybody.



We talked to some people with learning disabilities. We talked to some family carers.



We talked to people in Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and England.



We wanted to make sure we were asking questions that were important to people and families.



We asked them about what the coronavirus pandemic has been like for them.



We talked to them in May 2021.



People with learning disabilities told us about what is happening to them now.

Changes in support



People with learning disabilities are getting less support because of coronavirus.



Many people with learning disabilities are going to their day centre less often.



Some day centres are still closed.



People with learning disabilities are feeling lonelier. They are missing seeing their friends at their day centre and social clubs.



Some people with learning disabilities feel less confident than usual.



They feel less confident because of the lockdown restrictions.



They feel less confident because of the changes in their support.



Some people with learning disabilities are finding everyday skills harder.

Family carers are worried about people that are finding everyday skills harder.



Some people with learning disabilities are getting less support.



Some people with learning disabilities are still paying for support that they are not getting.



People with learning disabilities and their families are waiting to be told what will happen to their support in the future.

They feel worried about whether their support will go back to normal.

Health



Some people with learning disabilities have been feeling more sad and worried than usual.

Some people with learning disabilities have poorer physical health than usual.



Lots of health care is happening on the phone and online.



Some people need to see a doctor or nurse in real life to get good health care.

Some people with learning disabilities and their families are worried about whether this will go back to normal.

Using technology



Some people can use a phone or the internet.



People who can use the phone or internet are happy that they can talk to the people they love more often.



Some people with learning disabilities have enjoyed making new friends online.



Some people with learning disabilities do not have a phone or the internet.



Some people with learning disabilities need help from other people to use technology.



This makes it harder to keep in touch with family and friends.



Impact on family carers

There is less support for people with learning disabilities.

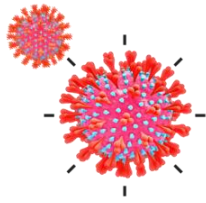


Many family carers are spending more time caring for their relative with learning disabilities.



Lots of family carers are feeling tired, sad and worried because of this.

Some family carers have poorer physical health.



Making decisions about safety

Family carers are feeling worried about the safety of their relative with learning disabilities.



They are worried about their relative with learning disabilities spending time with more people as lockdown ends.



Family carers want clear information about the risks for their relative with learning disabilities.



Some family carers are not being asked what they think about their relative's care.



Family carers want to be involved in decisions about their relative's care.



Family carers feel frustrated.

What will we do next?



We have been speaking to people with learning disabilities and families about the coronavirus pandemic.



We are writing up reports about what people have told us. We will share this information on the internet.



You can find out more about the study by looking at this website:

www.covid19learningdisabilities.co.uk