

COVID-19 disabilities checklist

People with disability are at increased risk of contracting COVID-19*

COVID-19 may present particular risks for some people with disability because they may:

- have difficulty practicing hand hygiene and barriers accessing hygiene facilities.
- have difficulty performing social distancing because of required assistance from others
- need to touch objects or others, or be touched by others to perform everyday activities.
- have difficulty understanding information or managing change
- have co-existing health conditions, and complex comorbidities.

When communicating with a person with disability please follow this checklist:

Communicating:

- Talk directly to me, not my support person.
- Ask how we can best communicate. (E.g. interpreter, gestures, signs, sounds, symbols and pictures, or devices)
- Provide an Auslan or spoken language interpreter for me or my support person.

- Listen to me, express empathy, make time to connect and learn what is normal for me.

Information and decision-making

- Include me in decision-making with support if I need it.
- Ask for information about me from the people who know me best. Ask for information about me from the people who know me best.

Support networks

- Identify and acknowledge the people that support me as a valuable resource
- Gain consent to share information with support people.
- Support my key contact person and provide them with information about me as things change.
- Link me in with Hospital Health Service services such as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Liaison Officer, Nurse Navigator or Social Worker (if available and appropriate).

**This information was adapted from Queensland Health June 2020.*