

Learning Disabilities

May 2020a

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COVID-19

[Covid Voices – want to include yours?](#) An organisation called National Voices has created 'Our Covid Voices' which is a project which allows people with long-term conditions, disabilities and other health and care needs to share with the world what life is like for them right now.

[Health and wellbeing of the adult social care workforce](#) This guidance is for anyone who works in adult social care. It provides advice on how you can manage your personal mental health in the current circumstances. It also provides adult social care employers with guidance, tools and advice on how to take care of the wellbeing of staff at work.

[Dedicated app for social care workers launched](#) A new dedicated app for the adult social care workforce in England has been launched to support staff through the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

[SEND code of practice: 0 to 25 years](#) Guidance on the special educational needs and disability (SEND) system for children and young people aged 0 to 25. Updated 30 April with added link to guidance on 'Changes to the law on education, health and care needs assessments and plans due to coronavirus'.

[Guidance on supporting autistic people during the coronavirus outbreak](#) The Government has published guidance for unpaid carers on supporting people during the coronavirus outbreak, including what to do if you or the person you support needs to self-isolate or is in the vulnerable category. This post from Autism.org outlines the guidance in an easy-to-follow way for those caring for others.

[Mencap launches online TV channel amid increased reports of 'lockdown' loneliness](#) Learning disability charity Mencap have launched a new online video platform called 'Mencap TV', available on YouTube [here](#). The charity has also created a wider hub of accessible resources including easy read versions of official government guidance, activity planners, and templates to help combat anxiety, loneliness, and maintain routine, which is important for some people with a learning disability.

[Quarantine may hit autistic women and children hardest](#) The coronavirus lockdown has radically disrupted autistic people's schedules and access to services, according to a new survey. And the disruptions may be especially difficult for women and children with the condition.

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Systematic Review

[Prevalence of oral disease and treatment types proposed to children affected by Autistic Spectrum Disorder in Pediatric Dentistry: A Systematic Review](#)

This review found that the high prevalence of treatment under general anaesthesia and the often-reported negative behaviour showed that there are a lack of protocols specifically designed for ASD patients, in order to better improve their collaboration and subsequently their oral health and so additional strategies for a preventive care should be applied for these patients.

Studies

[Hormone level in infants may predict autism diagnosis](#) Low levels of the hormone vasopressin in early infancy may presage an autism diagnosis in childhood, according to a new study.

[Autistic people may have trouble tuning out distractions](#) Autistic people have atypical activity in a part of the brain that regulates attention, according to a new study.

[Autistic children's emotional problems may persist into young adulthood](#) A study that followed 126 autistic people in England from their preteen years to age 23 found little improvement in their behavioural and emotional problems.