

Learning Disabilities

Jan 2021

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COVID-19

[Unequal impact? Coronavirus, disability and access to services](#) A video and report that looks at how the pandemic has had “profoundly adverse effects” on disabled people’s access to services.

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): providing home care](#) Updated to reflect guidance on shielding: clinically extremely vulnerable people should now shield at home.

[Supported living services during coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#) Updated guidance to reference the new national lockdown.

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): admission and care of people in care homes](#) Addition of link to guidance on designated settings for people discharged to a care home, access to PPE, and 10-day self-isolation period changes for staff.

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): looking after people who lack mental capacity](#) The attachment 'The Mental Capacity Act (2005) (MCA) and the deprivation of liberty safeguards (DoLS) during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic: additional guidance' has been updated. A new sub-section has been added – ‘Offering a vaccine to someone who lacks the relevant mental capacity’.

Mental health challenges facing people with tic disorders during COVID-19

People with tic disorders were already facing stark mental health inequalities before the pandemic and recent research surveys shows that patients have noticed their tics worsening since the outbreak of the pandemic. This article asks whether the pandemic is a chance to provide better support for neurodiverse populations?

[Coronavirus and people with learning disabilities survey](#) NDTi are one of the partners on a new research study exploring people with learning disabilities’ experiences of the coronavirus pandemic. It is a UK wide study aiming to speak directly to 1000 people with learning disabilities as well as 400 family carers of people with higher support needs. The surveys will be run three times over the next 12 months. The project website is <https://warwick.ac.uk/fac/soc/cedar/covid19-learningdisability> and there is a direct link to the family survey on this as well as a way for people with learning disabilities who are interested in taking part to get in touch.

[Parents of children with EHCPs demand clarity on who can attend school during lockdown](#) Charities and campaign groups working with parents and carers of children who have an education, health and care (EHC) plan have called for more clarity on which children can attend school during the latest lockdown. During the first lockdown in March, only between 1.5% and 10% of all children with EHCPs went to school. A poll from the [Disabled Children's Partnership](#), also found that parents of children with learning or other disabilities reported an increased caring load, both for themselves and for their disabled children's siblings during that time.

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Studies

[Daily living skills influence autistic adults' education, employment options](#) Autistic people's skill at managing the demands of daily life decline after they leave high school, according to a new study. But those who maintain more abilities are more likely to pursue further education than those who don't.

[Mice with autism-related mutations show brain signalling imbalance](#) Mutations in POGZ, a gene strongly linked to autism, lead to a signalling imbalance in multiple brain regions in mice, according to two new studies.

[Autistic girls, boys differ in how they talk about social groups](#) During conversations, girls with autism use "we," "they" and other words related to social groups differently than autistic boys do, according to a new study. The findings could help parents and clinicians identify autism in girls, who tend to be diagnosed less often and later than boys. The failure to recognise autism in girls can put them at an increased risk of mental health problems such as anxiety, depression and suicidality.