



University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities

In response to COVID-19: Health care access is a right

People with disabilities have the right to accessible health care that meets their needs.

Senate bill 1606 and provider education:



When Oregon Senate Bill 1606, passed in October 2020, guaranteeing Oregonians with disabilities access to people they trust to provide support when they are in the hospital, we:

- Partnered with our state network to inform legislation
- Developed an [online training for health care providers](#) on their new obligations when serving patient with disabilities
- Provided expertise to OHSU as processes and policies were put in place for adherence to the new law

This work serves as a national model of protecting the rights of people with disabilities during crisis situations.

Vaccination site access:



When [people with disabilities became eligible](#) to receive a vaccine, we:

- Provided volunteer staffing and technical assistance to drive through vaccination clinics
- Advised on accommodations and potential needs of participants
- Collected feedback from people receiving vaccinations with state partners to continuously improve the experience

Telehealth resources:



When virtual health care started expanding, we:

- Created a series of [four animated videos on telehealth](#) in English and Spanish in partnership with the Assistive Technology Lab at Community Vision
- Designed in collaboration with and for adults with I/DD, and more specifically for people who use communication supports
- Engaged with OHSU to offer the videos to all patients, covering topics of scheduling, preparing for, and participating in a telehealth visit