



FAQs on Vaccine Eligibility for Individuals with Disabilities, Their Families and Caregivers

Some individuals with disabilities and their families and caregivers are eligible to receive COVID-19 vaccines as part of Phase 1a. The information below is intended to provide answers to questions regarding which individuals are eligible as part of Phase 1a. Even if someone is not eligible under this group of Phase 1a, they may be eligible under some other category.

Oregon's Phase 1a Vaccine Sequencing Plan¹ includes the following individuals:

- Home Care Workers, Personal Support Workers and all paid and unpaid HCP/direct care personnel who have the potential for direct or indirect exposure to patients or infectious materials providing home health care, in-home care including nursing services, in-home supports and day services.
- Parents, including foster parents, and other caregivers of medically fragile children or adults who live at home.
- Children who meet the age eligibility criteria for vaccines under the FDA Emergency Use Authorizations (Pfizer, age 16 and above; Moderna, age 18 and above; Johnson & Johnson, 18 and above) who experience a medical condition or disability that requires health care personnel, or direct care personnel (including family members) to provide in-home services.
- Adults who live in their own home or family home and experience a medical condition or disability that requires health care personnel, or direct care personnel (including family members) to provide in-home services. This includes individuals receiving services through Aging and People with Disabilities, Area Agencies on Aging, Community Developmental Disabilities Programs and Brokerages.
- Adults who live in licensed care facilities, including Adult Foster Homes, and independent living facilities who experience a medical condition or disability that requires health care personnel, or direct care personnel

¹ <https://sharedsystems.dhsoha.state.or.us/DHSForms/Served/le3527.pdf>

Q1. What does medically fragile mean?

A1. The term “medically fragile” is broadly defined to mean a chronic physical condition which results in a prolonged need for medical care and/or caregiving for which daily skilled nursing or other personal care is required.

Q2. Who qualifies as a person who lives at home and experiences a medical condition or disability that requires health care personnel or direct care personnel (including family members) to provide in-home services?

A2. These individuals include people with medical conditions or disabilities who live in their own home or family home and rely on caregivers, whether paid or unpaid, to provide in-home services as described below. If an individual relies on family members or volunteers to provide in-home care, that counts too.

Q3. Who qualifies as a caregiver providing in-home services to an individual who is eligible to get vaccinated under Phase 1b, Group 3?

A3. Caregivers include:

Paid and unpaid healthcare providers and direct care personnel:

- Someone paid to provide services and supports to clients in their homes
- Family members, including spouses, partners, parents, children or friends who provides in-home support or services, whether paid or unpaid, to a person with a disability or medical condition
- Volunteer who provides in-home services to clients in their homes

Q4. What services would someone need to receive in order to be eligible as part of this group?

A4. Services could include:

- Home health care, for example:
 - Wound care
 - Intravenous or nutrition therapy
 - Injections
 - Monitoring serious illness
 - Oxygen and respiratory therapies
- In-home care, supports and services, for example:
 - Personal care, such as bathing or dressing
 - Supervision of cognitive impairments such as dementia
 - Household chores, such as cleaning, laundry, or in-home delivery of shopping

- Cooking for the individual in their home
- Language interpretation (sign language or protactile interpretation or other communication supports)
- Home delivered meals (that involve in-home interactions)

Document accessibility: For individuals with disabilities or individuals who speak a language other than English, OHA can provide information in alternate formats such as translations, large print, or braille. Contact the Health Information Center at 1-971-673-2411, 711 TTY or COVID19.LanguageAccess@dhsoha.state.or.us.