

Top Tips for Clinicians

Supporting reasonable adjustments re COVID 19 Vaccinations

Disclaimer. These are intended only as good practice prompts. Use your clinical judgement.

People with learning disabilities are at a higher risk of developing COVID 19, for a variety of reasons including difficulties with following guidance about PPE or social distancing, having increased numbers of long term health conditions and particularly respiratory issues, living in communal settings, etc. In order to reduce this risk we need to support people to have their COVID 19 vaccinations as quickly as possible once these are offered and this may mean making reasonable adjustments to processes and environments along the way.

<https://www.learningdisabilityservice-leeds.nhs.uk/get-checked-out/resources/gps-and-practice-staff/>

Top Tip 1

Before: Think flexibility – can you vaccinate family carers at same time as the patient. This will help to role model that what is going to happen will not hurt.

Top Tip 2

Before: Do some preparation before hand – does capacity need to be considered, best interest conversations done in advance and talk to carers if appropriate to find out what specific support a patient might need. Sending out easy read information – an you send this out to person. www.learningdisabilityservice-leeds.nhs.uk/get-checked-out/resources/covid-19/

Top Tip 3

Before & during: Environment – Knowing your patient - will they cope with a big vaccination centre? Or would a familiar health centre or even a home visit suit the patient better? Having a quiet space to wait, reducing noise, reducing distractions. Thinking about the uniforms people are wearing as these can be anxiety provoking.

Top Tip 4

During: Approach/touch - again talk to the carers and the patient. For example, some people might prefer a count down before the injection is undertaken whilst others might find this distressing.

Top Tip 5

During: Think about a suitable distraction during the vaccine, a patient may not want to see what is happening – listen to carers about how best to support the patient.

Top Tip 6

After: Some people will have to wait for 15 minutes - can the patient sit somewhere else that is quieter?

Some positive reinforcement - to encourage people to come back next time! Stickers, do something nice, have a treat ready.