



# South Carolina Department of Disabilities and Special Needs

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**SITUATIONAL REPORT NO. 40, DATE: JANUARY 13, 2021**  
**EVENT COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

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## **I. COVID-19 VACCINE UPDATE**

Vaccinations are underway at all CRCFs and ICFs through the Pharmacy Partner Program. We hope to have instructions from DHEC soon on how CTH II facilities, residents and staff will be vaccinated followed by other residential habilitation programs.

COVID -19 vaccination is now underway by appointment at DHEC partner sites for those included in phase 1.a **ALL individuals aged 70 and above are now included in Phase 1.a**. For a graphic description of Phase 1, see this [link](#).

Those included in phase 1.a. can now make appointments at DHEC vaccination sites. DHEC has set up a page with links to its vax locator and a toll free number for appointments [here](#).

## **II. NEW GUIDANCE ISSUED BY THE CDC ON COVID-19 VACCINE IMPACT ON TB TEST EFFECTIVENESS**

The CDC has issued guidance addressing concerns about the impact of the COVID-19 vaccine on TB testing. The CDC states that there is no evidence of any adverse impact on the effectiveness of TB tests by the COVID-19 vaccine, which is a messenger RNA vaccine and **NOT** a live virus vaccine. Please see the CDC guidance [here](#).

## **III. CDC ADDS DOWN SYNDROME TO “CONDITIONS OF RISK” FOR COVID-19**

The CDC has updated its list of conditions that carry an “increased risk of severe illness from the virus that causes COVID-19” to include Down Syndrome. The CDC said that the addition of Down Syndrome to the “increased risk” list came in response to recent data. People with the chromosomal disorder should talk to their health care provider about their individual risk in light of their medical history and the situation in their community.

Recent research has indicated that people with Down Syndrome are four times more likely to be hospitalized with the virus and ten times more likely to die from the virus.

You can view the updated guidance from the CDC [here](#).

**IV. CDC AND DHEC PARTNER TO PROVIDE INFECTION CONTROL TRAINING THROUGH PROJECT FIRSTLINE.**

The new Project First Line (PFL) grant is a collaborative effort to provide frontline healthcare workers with the infection control training needed to protect them and their patients from infectious disease threats. See the following link for details: [www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/projectfirstline](http://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/projectfirstline)

As our nation continues to respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency, DHEC would like to offer your frontline team members this important training. The first task of PFL will be completing a Learning Needs Assessment (LNA) of healthcare workers (across service lines and roles) to assess learning gaps relative to infection prevention and control.

Please encourage your staff to complete this brief survey. It should take about 15 minutes to complete. The survey can be found [here](#).