

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES NETWORK PRESENTS

DD NETWORK NEWS

A Collaborative Publication from MSCDD, DRMS and IDS

SPRING 2021 ISSUE

Worth the Shot



Have you gotten your COVID-19 vaccine?

The DD Network wants to remind you that it's ***Worth the Shot!*** The COVID-19 vaccine has been proven to be a safe, effective measure against the COVID-19 virus. Receiving the vaccine not only helps keep you safe, but it also can help protect your more vulnerable friends and neighbors in the community.

Do you have questions about the vaccine? Are you unsure of how to get it? Do you feel hesitant to receive the vaccine? In this issue of DD Network News, we're here to answer all of those questions and help you make an informed decision about the vaccine.

How do I find a vaccine provider site near me?

There are national and statewide listings for locating a vaccine in your area. You can find the COVID-19 vaccine near you by using www.vaccines.gov then calling or visiting the website of the provider to make an appointment.

COVID-19 vaccinations for Mississippians are available at no cost at vaccination sites around the state, and from some local healthcare providers. Learn more by visiting https://msdh.ms.gov/msdhsite/_static/14,0,420,976.html#find.

Homebound? If you are confined to your home and need assistance getting your COVID-19 vaccination, send an e-mail to COVIDHomebound@msdh.ms.gov.

We want to hear from you!

The DD Network values your input as we set our goals each year. In July and August, we'll be holding community forums around the state (and virtually), where you can share your thoughts, concerns, and ideas with us. We'll also be providing more information on the COVID-19 vaccine. Dates and information will be available on our websites and social media channels later this month!



INSTITUTE FOR DISABILITY STUDIES

As part of the Institute for Disability Studies' efforts to promote wellness through COVID-19 vaccination, IDS Self-Advocacy Coordinator, Taylor Carley, has hosted an informational interview with USM public health intern Miracle Murrell for his video series "Chit Chat Thursdays with Taylor." During this interview Miracle and Taylor discussed vaccine hesitancy, their personal experiences getting the vaccine and the benefits of the vaccine. Additionally, they shared with viewers how to register for the vaccine and provide resources for more information. To watch this "Chit Chat Thursdays with Taylor" video, please visit tinyurl.com/IDSvaccine.

MISSISSIPPI COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

GetOutTheVaccine.org Provides Resources on COVID-19 Vaccinations

The National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities (NACDD) has developed a website called "Get Out The Vaccine" to provide resources and encourage people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their family members and caregivers to get the COVID-19 vaccine. COVID-19 has affected the lives of many in the disability community. The vaccine may offer protection against the virus, yet people with disabilities may be anxious or unsure about getting the vaccine. NACDD is providing the site www.getoutthevaccine.org help reduce anxiety and misinformation around the vaccine.

The CDC Provides Resources for People with Disabilities

The CDC provides information for people with disabilities or conditions that may increase their risk of getting and spreading COVID-19 and for their care providers:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/recommendations/disabilities.html>

Guidance and tools to help people with disabilities and those who serve or care for them make decisions, protect their health, and communicate with their communities:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/communication/toolkits/people-with-disabilities.html>

Easy to Read COVID-19 materials were primarily developed for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and others who read or listen with understanding below a third-grade level: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/easy-to-read/index.html>

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In an effort to continue to provide accessible content related to the pandemic, DRMS released a COVID-19 Vaccine Guide. Written in plain language, DRMS' vaccine guide answers common questions about what the vaccine is, how to get a vaccine, and what to expect when getting the vaccine. This resource is available at drms.ms/covid-19-vaccine

Additional COVID-19 resources, including guidance on special education during the pandemic and other helpful links, can be found at drms.ms/covid.



Stay updated on vaccine news and information on our new **Worth the Shot** website, which is launching soon!

worththeshotms.com.

If you have information you would like to have included in the next issue, please contact Jane Walton at jwalton@drms.ms.

