



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Arizona Provides Direct Vaccination Assistance to Individuals with Developmental Disabilities

PHOENIX - (April 8, 2021) The Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES) is partnering with the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) to reserve appointments at state-run vaccination sites for individuals with developmental disabilities. Eligible members from the DES Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) will receive communication this week informing them of available appointment slots.

“We are grateful for ADHS’s partnership in expanding opportunities for individuals with developmental disabilities to receive the COVID-19 vaccine,” said DES Director Michael Wisheart. “DDD has been integral in ensuring the health, safety and comfort of its members throughout the pandemic, and we will continue to partner with ADHS and community stakeholders to raise awareness and provide support to members in need of the vaccine.”

This collaboration follows ongoing efforts by DDD to ensure members are informed of their eligibility and access to the COVID-19 vaccinations. Since vaccinations were made available to all Arizonans 16 and older, DDD has contacted over 11,000 newly eligible DDD members who had not yet received a first dose of the vaccine:

- To share the new eligibility criteria and explain how to schedule an appointment
- To provide points of contact for assistance in scheduling an appointment if they are having trouble navigating the website or need to schedule over the phone
- To determine whether they require transportation to a vaccination site, and if so, connect them to transportation providers.

Additionally, DDD is working with county health departments and contracted DDD Health Plans to arrange vaccine delivery to individuals who are unable to leave their home for an appointment.

DDD continues to support the advocacy and stakeholder communities to increase awareness about the availability of the COVID-19 vaccine. The community has also partnered with ADHS to host vaccination events exclusive to individuals with disabilities, including a weekend-long event

at Ability360 on April 10 and 11. Appointments are required. For more information, and to schedule an appointment, please visit the [Ability360 website](#).

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