

COVID-19 Vaccination and People on the Autism Spectrum

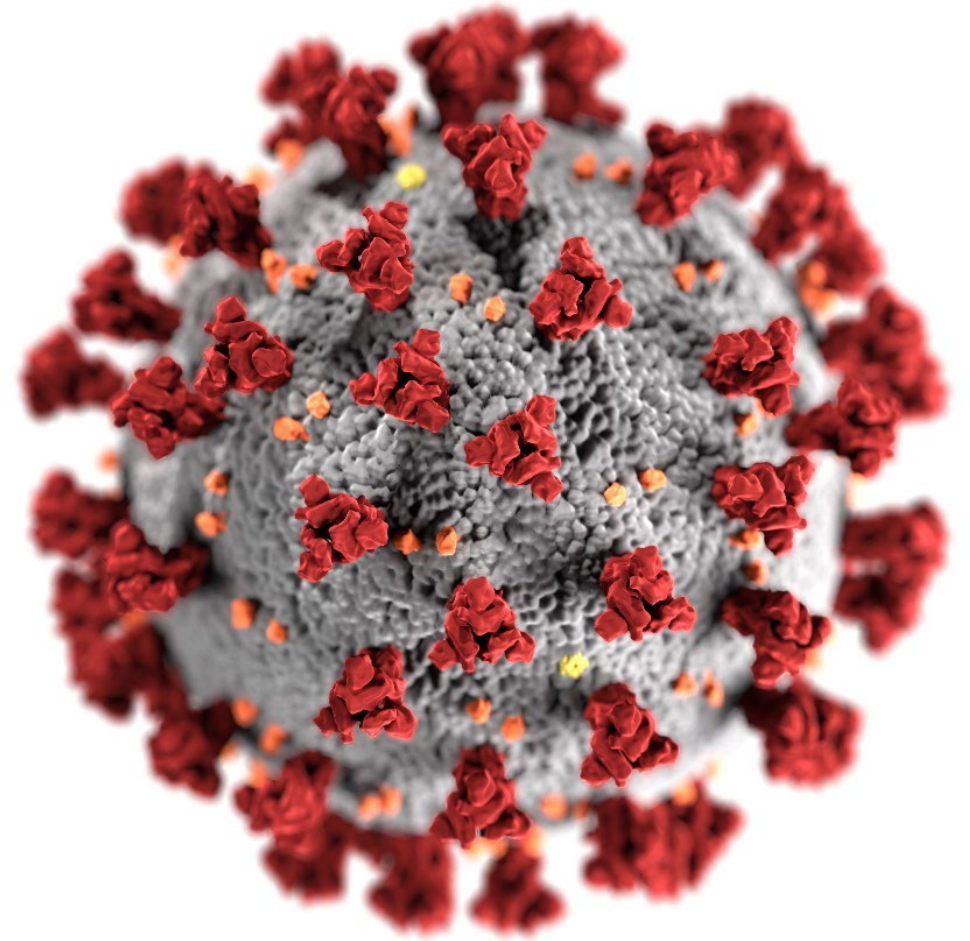
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Director, National Center on Birth Defects and
Developmental Disabilities

The Federal Response to COVID-19: Addressing
the Needs of the Autism and Disability
Communities

National Institute of Mental Health

28 April 2021



cdc.gov/coronavirus

Updates on vaccine recommendations and timeline



Currently authorized vaccines

- Pfizer-BioNTech
- Moderna



mRNA vaccines
Require two doses



- Johnson & Johnson/Janssen



Viral vector vaccine
Requires one dose

- All three vaccines were tested in tens of thousands of adults from diverse backgrounds, including older adults and communities of color.
- All of the available vaccines have been proven effective at preventing serious illness, hospitalization, and death from COVID-19.
- It is unknown how long protection from vaccines might last.

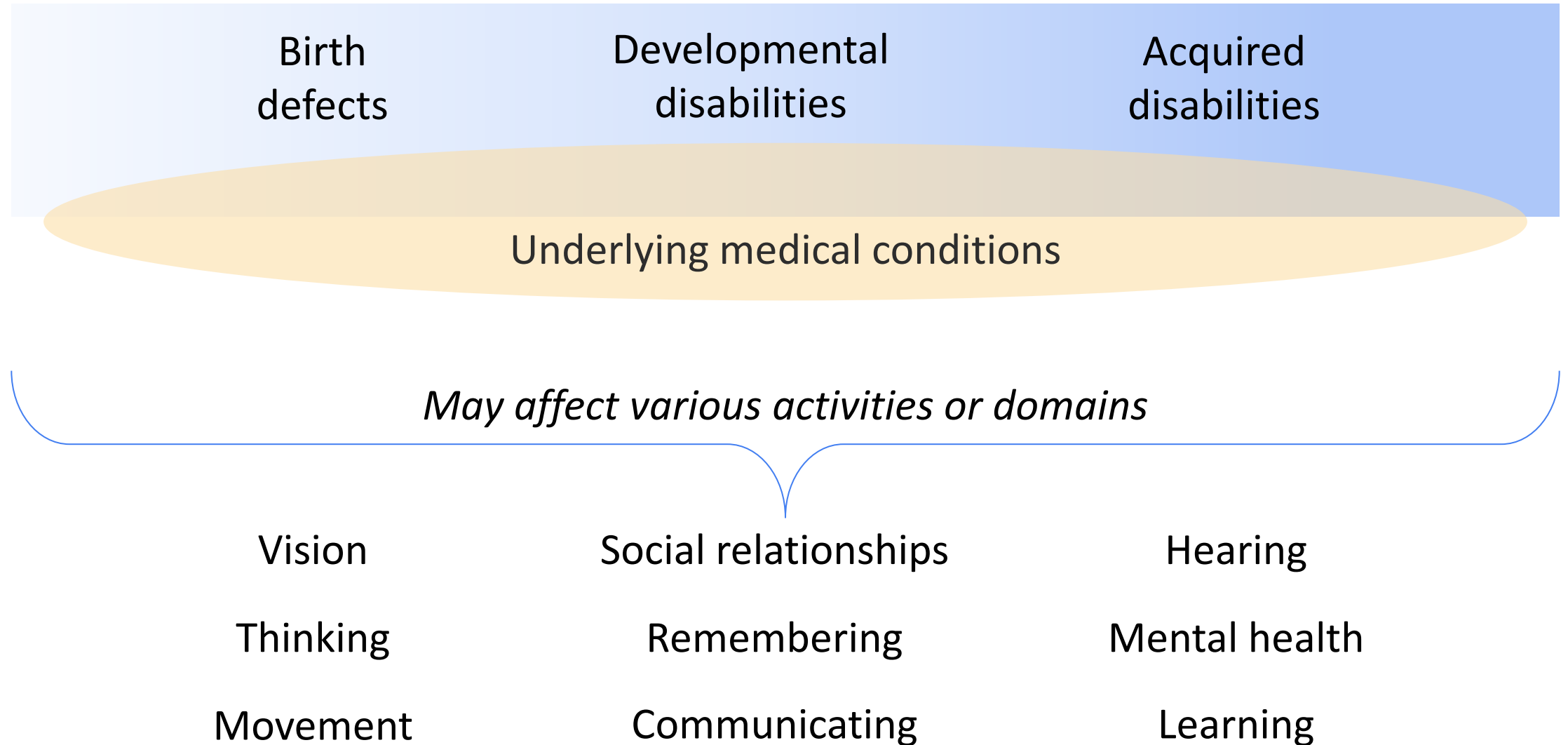
Health equity for people with disabilities

To help the United States succeed against COVID-19, federal, state, local, and tribal partners and community-serving organizations are working together to ensure all public health actions address health disparities for all populations.

Populations of focus:

- Racial and ethnic minority populations
- People living in rural or frontier areas
- People experiencing homelessness
- Essential and frontline workers
- **People with disabilities**
- People with substance use disorders
- People who are justice-involved

Intersection of disabilities and special healthcare needs



COVID-19 Vaccination Accessibility

- CDC is working with partners across the country on implementation of vaccination plans for their respective areas.
- CDC playbook was developed to provide important information for jurisdictions to consider when vaccinating people with disabilities.
- Vaccinating older adults and people with disabilities (for jurisdictions):
<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/clinical-considerations/older-adults-and-disability/access.html>
- Vaccinating older adults and people with disabilities (for vaccination sites):
<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/clinical-considerations/older-adults-and-disability.html>

Available Accessible COVID-19 Resources

- Resources about COVID-19 for people with limited English and that are easy-to-read or in [American Sign Language](#)
- CDC Foundation supported the GA Institute of Technology (GA Tech) to translate COVID-19 [resources](#) into accessible formats
- Ongoing development of repository of accessible COVID-19 vaccine information



Photo source: CDC YouTube site

White House Virtual Forum: *Breaking Down Barriers for People Who Have Challenges Accessing COVID-19 Vaccination* (April 21, 2021)



Disability is a part of vaccine equity



Supporting People with Autism Spectrum Disorder and Related Disabilities

- Partner organizations disseminating disability-related vaccine guidance and accessible documents
 - Autism Science Foundation
 - Autistic Self Advocacy Network
 - Autism Speaks
 - Autism Society
 - Other organizations such as AAP, AAHD, AAPD, AUCD, NACDD, NASEM and more
- [Disability Toolkit](#) with COVID-19 vaccine equity and prevention guidance
- [Promising Practices](#): Reaching Populations with Limited Access to Vaccines
- [Prioritizing and Scheduling](#) People with Disabilities and Caregivers for Vaccination

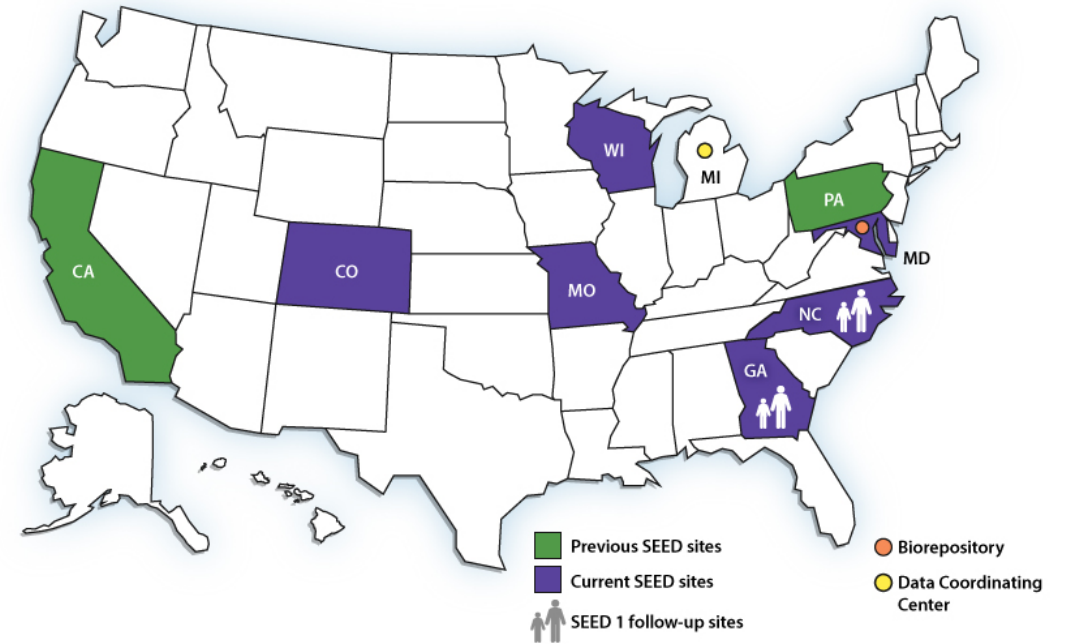


Photo source:
iStock

Study to Explore Early Development

- CDC longitudinal study of children aged 3-9 with autism spectrum disorder, other developmental disabilities, and in the general population who participated at ages 2-5
- COVID-19 impacts including
 - Education and use of remote learning; use of services and telemedicine; testing and mitigation strategies; and changes in routines and well-being.
 - Changes in household structure, finances, employment and health insurance; and COVID-19 infection
 - Pre-COVID-19 and post-COVID-19 assessment of behavior problems

Study to Explore Early Development (SEED): Phases 1, 2, and 3



Considerations for pediatric populations and children with disabilities and special healthcare needs



Vaccine clinical development: children



Platform/ Design	mRNA: encodes stabilized spike; lipid NP	mRNA: encodes 2P-stabilized spike; lipid NP	Replication incompetent Ad26; stabilized spike	Replication incompetent ChAdOx1 chimp Ad; wild type spike
Dose/Schedule Adults	IM 2 doses X 30 µg 21 days apart	IM 2 doses 100 µg 28 days apart	IM 1 dose at 5×10^{10} vp (also testing 2 doses (0, 56 days))	IM 2 doses at 5×10^{10} vp (0, 28 days)
Current Status	Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) ages 16 and up	EUA ages 18 and up	EUA ages 18 and up	Phase 3 adults
Adolescents	Fully enrolled	Fully enrolled	Start 4-6wks after results from adult trials	TBD
Younger Children	Studies have begun	Studies have begun	TBD	TBD

Adapted from source: Emily Erbelding, M.D., M.P.H. Director, Division of Microbiology and Infectious Diseases, NIAID

Routine vaccines widely available to pediatric populations

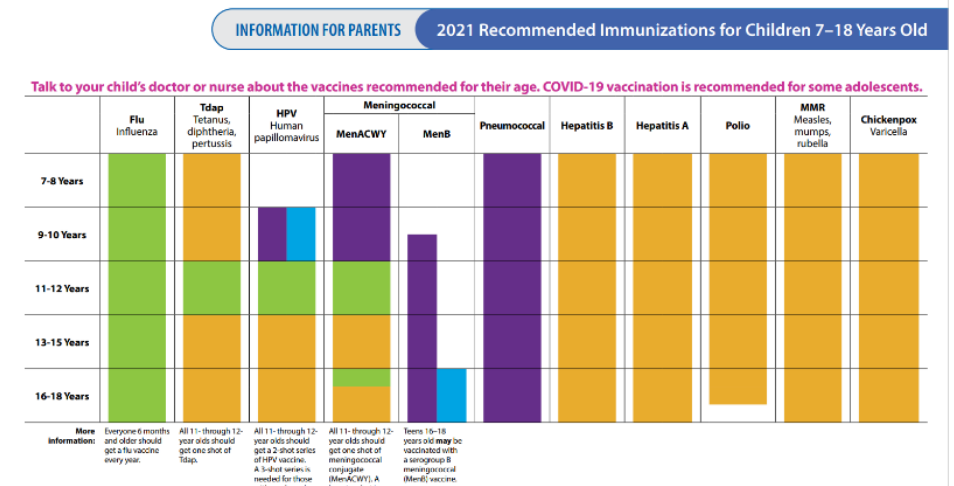
- Children receive routine vaccinations according to the recommended schedule.
- The Vaccines for Children (VFC) program provides vaccines at no cost to children who might not otherwise be vaccinated because of inability to pay.
- Approximately half of U.S. children are eligible for VFC and ~86% of U.S. pediatricians provide care in a VFC-enrolled practice.

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/parents/schedules/index.html>

Whitney CG, Zhou F, Singleton J, Schuchat A. Benefits from immunization during the Vaccines for Children program era—United States, 1994-2013. *MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep* 2014;63:352–5.

O’Leary ST, Allison MA, Vogt T, et al. Pediatricians’ experiences with and perceptions of the Vaccines for Children program. *Pediatrics* 2020;145:1204–7.

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/parents/schedules/index.html>



Considerations for ensuring equity to vaccine access for children with disabilities or other healthcare needs

- It is important that people with disabilities get the COVID-19 vaccine.
- Some children may have more interaction with trusted healthcare or service specialists than with general pediatricians.
 - Pediatric hospital systems
 - Pediatric specialists and/or disability-specific practices and clinics
 - Occupational, physical, or speech specialists
- Vaccinating children with disabilities and special healthcare needs, their caregivers, family members (e.g., parents and siblings), and service providers as soon as they can to reduce risk of negative outcomes from COVID-19.
- Vaccination sites and providers and vaccination messaging should be accessible to all populations with disabilities.

The health of the child
is the power of the nation

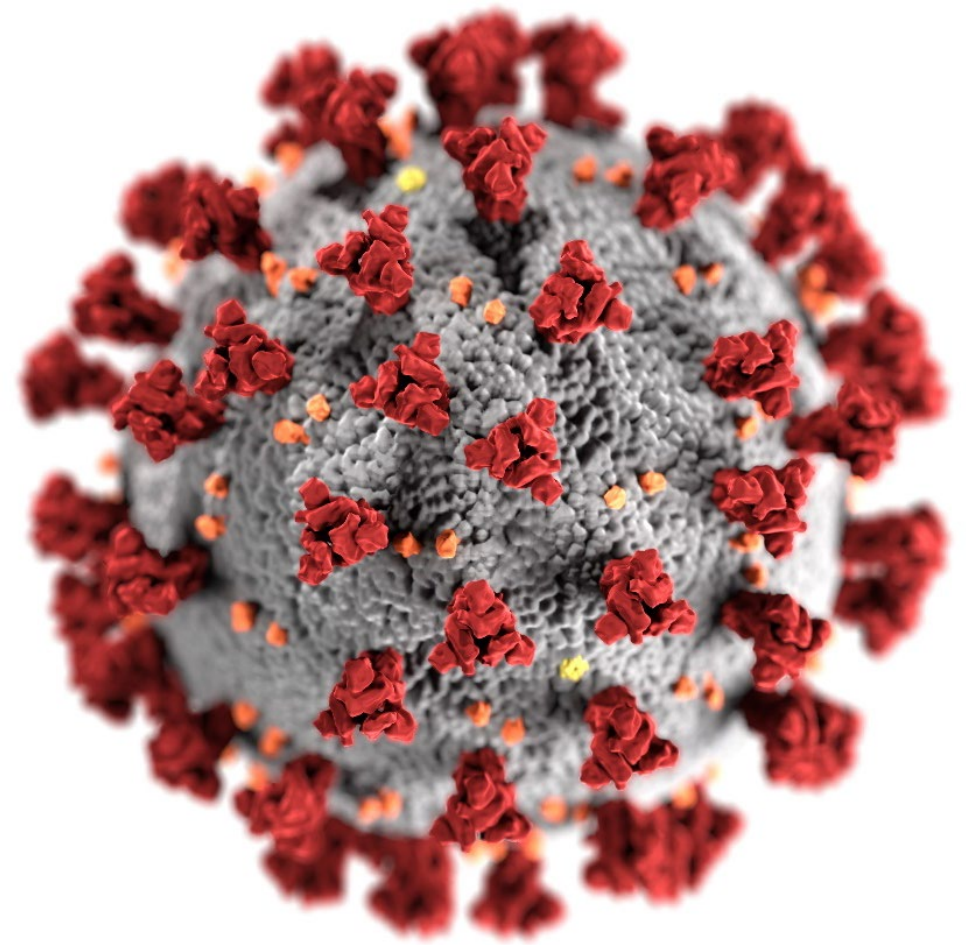


APRIL 1918

Children's Year

APRIL 1919

UNITED STATES CHILDREN'S BUREAU AND WOMAN'S COMMITTEE OF THE COUNCIL OF NATIONAL DEFENSE



For more information, contact CDC
1-800-CDC-INFO (232-4636)
TTY: 1-888-232-6348 www.cdc.gov

The findings and conclusions in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

