

## **People with learning disabilities already have a higher risk of dying earlier, so why weren't they at the top of the list during the pandemic?**

In England, Scotland and Wales people with learning disabilities are between 3 times and 8 times more likely to die with COVID-19 (Coronavirus).

Before COVID-19, people with learning disabilities had a lower **life expectancy** than people without learning disabilities. This is unequal.

**Life expectancy** is the average number of years that a person is expected to live.

There are lots of unequal things that people with learning disabilities face.

- People with learning disabilities are more likely to die from a health issue that can be avoided with good health care.
- The term 'learning disabilities' is used as a reason for use of a 'do not attempt cardiopulmonary resuscitation (DNACR) order', often without talking to the person with learning disabilities and their families.
- Information collected on people with learning disabilities is poor.
- Children and young people from Black, Asian and minority ethnic backgrounds are more likely to have a

shorter life expectancy than people with learning disabilities from other ethnic backgrounds.

These health inequalities existed before COVID-19. But governments in England, Scotland and Wales have not understood them and have not met the needs of people with learning disabilities during COVID-19.

Lots of people with learning disabilities were not given tests for COVID-19. Lots of people with learning disabilities have not been given access to a vaccination against COVID-19 yet.

It is important that governments learn more about issues that people with learning disabilities face and make sure that people with learning disabilities have good health care during COVID-19. It is unacceptable that people with learning disabilities are more likely to die younger than people without learning disabilities because of poor support.