Module 7

Video 2: Disability-inclusive health during the COVID-19 pandemic
People with disability may be at greater risk of contracting COVID-19 and developing severe disease due to:

- Barriers to **basic hygiene** measures
- Difficulty **social distancing**
- Pre-existing **underlying health conditions**
- Barriers to **accessing health care**
- Barriers to public health **information**
- **Disruption** to usual services
## Recap: Barriers to health services for people with disability

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. Attitudinal barriers</th>
<th>2. Physical barriers</th>
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<tr>
<td>Stigma and discrimination; lack of knowledge and training of health workers; lack of inclusive policies; lack of inclusion in planning and decision-making</td>
<td>Location of health services; lack of accessible transport; poor access to buildings, toilets, consulting rooms and furniture</td>
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<td>Lack of alternative formats of health information; use of jargon; poor signage</td>
<td>Direct and indirect costs of accessing health care can be catastrophic for many people with disability</td>
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Disability-inclusive health during COVID-19

1. Inclusive attitudes and policies

Ensure staff working in testing, treatment and vaccination services are trained in being disability inclusive.
Disability-inclusive health during COVID-19

1. Inclusive attitudes and policies

Provide information to staff on the potential consequences of COVID-19 for people with disability
1. Inclusive attitudes and policies

Provide **flexible policies** that provide accommodations for people with disability – for example, allow a support person to be present during appointments or hospitalizations.
Disability-inclusive health during COVID-19

1. Inclusive attitudes and policies

Ensure resource allocation (e.g. ventilators) is **not based on pre-existing impairments** or support needs
1. Inclusive attitudes and policies

Ensure data on COVID-19 responses (e.g. testing and vaccination) can be **disaggregated by disability** for monitoring and evaluation.
2. Physical accessibility

Ensure testing, treatment and vaccination services are \textit{physically accessible}
2. Physical accessibility

Offer **home-based services** for people with disability for COVID-19-related and general health needs.
2. Physical accessibility

Use **telehealth** consultations where possible
Disability-inclusive health during COVID-19

3. Accessible information

Work with DPOs to diseminate public health information to their members
3. Accessible information

Provide information in **diverse formats** – e.g. captioning and sign language for live or recorded messages, “easy-read” format, Braille, captions for images or diagrams, clear signage.
3. Accessible information

Information hotlines in *multiple formats* – e.g. email, telephone, SMS
4. Reduce financial barriers

Support for transport costs to testing and vaccination centres
4. Reduce financial barriers

Subsidized or free treatment for people with disability
4. Reduce financial barriers

Coordinate appointments and services to **reduce costs** or loss of income
Disability-inclusive health during COVID-19

4. Reduce financial barriers

Promote awareness of any government financial support schemes or compensation available
Step 5: Activity: Quiz: Understanding specific challenges to the health of people with disability during the COVID-19 pandemic


Step 7: Activity: Understanding the importance of consultation with DPOs