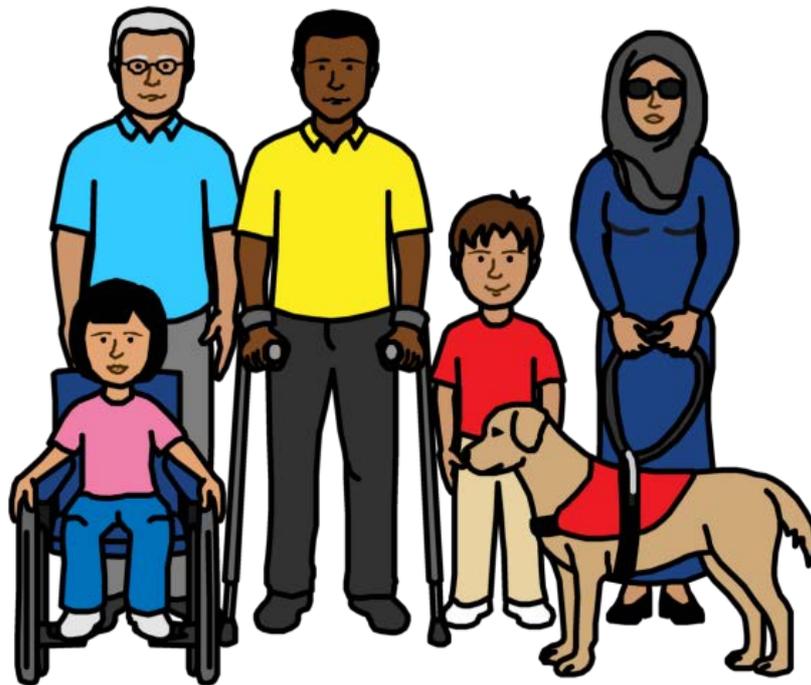


Making sure people with disabilities get their rights during Covid-19

Covid-19 is a new illness that many people in the world are getting. It is also called coronavirus.



Protect the rights of people with disabilities during COVID-19



About us

HUMAN
RIGHTS
WATCH

We are called Human Rights Watch.



We work to make sure that everyone in the world is treated fairly and gets their rights.

About this report



This report is about people with disabilities and a new illness called Covid-19.



Covid-19 is also called coronavirus.

Many people in the world are getting it.

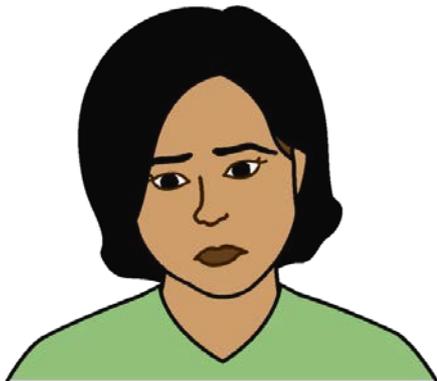


Some people with disabilities might also get sick with Covid-19.



We want to make sure that all people with disabilities are safe and get their rights at this time.

What is happening to people with disabilities at the moment

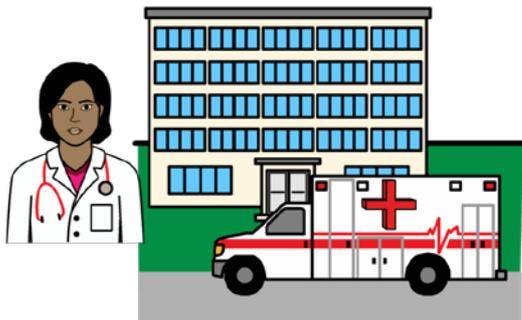


Many people with disabilities in the world are already left out and treated badly.

This could be worse with Covid-19.

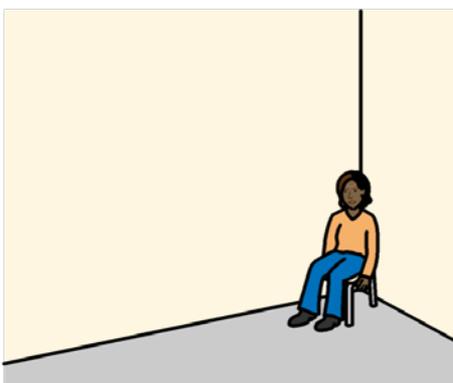
Most people get a bit ill from Covid 19.

But some people can get very ill.



This includes:

- Some older people
- People with some types of disabilities
- Some people who have already been ill for some time



Some people with disabilities might be in danger because they do not get the right support.



For example, many people with disabilities might find it hard to get:

- Information they can understand about Covid-19 and how to keep safe



- The right health care and support during Covid-19



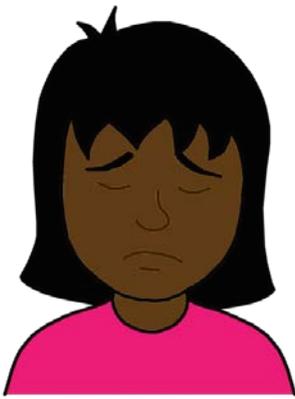
People can get Covid-19 if they spend time near other people who are ill.



Many people with disabilities live in hospitals or homes for people with disabilities.

There might be many people in the hospitals and homes.

Sometimes there are too many people.

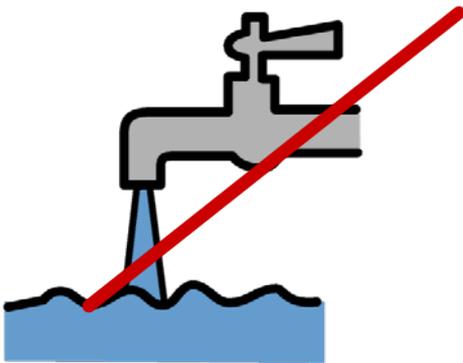


People with disabilities in the hospitals and homes might not get the care they need.



Some people with disabilities have to live in camps with many other people.

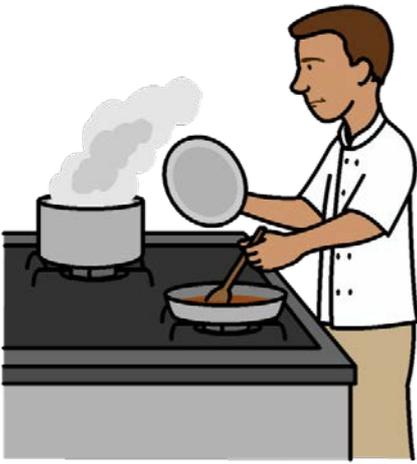
For example, because they had to leave home because of war or other problems.



They might not have soap, clean water, the right health care, and other things they need.



These problems could mean Covid-19 spreads quickly to many people.



People with disabilities who live in the community might need support from staff to do things like:

- Wash and dress
- Cook meals

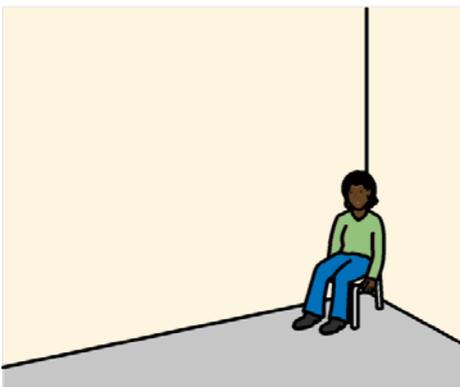


There are problems with the support at the moment.

For example, doctors, nurses, and carers might not have the right things to keep safe from Covid-19. Like gloves and face masks.



Staff might get ill with Covid-19. This means they cannot work.



Many governments are telling people to stay at home to stop Covid-19 spreading.



This can be hard for everyone.

But it can be harder for people with mental health conditions.

They may need more support at the moment.



Many schools have now closed because of Covid-19.

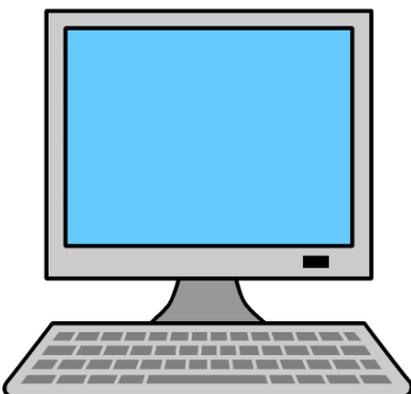
Children have to learn at home on the internet. Or use their own books to learn instead.



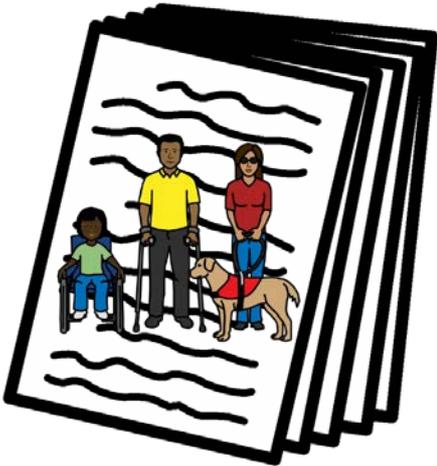
Many children with disabilities might be left out of this.

For example:

- The lessons might be hard for children with disabilities to understand
- Children with disabilities might not have the internet or know how to use it



What we want governments in the world to do



There is an important document about the rights of people with disabilities in the world.

Many governments have promised to do what it says.



The document says that people with disabilities have the same rights as everyone else.

This includes the right to:

- Information
- Health
- Education
- Support to live in the community like everyone else



Governments should work hard to make sure people with disabilities are safe and get their rights at this time.



Information

Governments should give people with disabilities information they can understand about:

- Covid-19 and how to keep safe
- Support they can get



For example, there should be:

- Information in easy words
- Information in sign language on TV
- Websites that are easy for people with different disabilities to use

Plans

Governments should think about what people with disabilities need when they make plans about Covid-19.

For example, they should think about how plans can work for people with disabilities who:

- Cannot wash their hands a lot
- Do not have enough clean water



Care and support

Covid-19 can spread fast if many people live in the same place.



Governments should:

- Move people with disabilities out of hospitals and homes for people with disabilities if it is safe
- Stop new people living in the hospitals and homes



Staff in hospitals and homes for people with disabilities should:

- Keep everything clean and safe
- Think about how friends and family can stay in touch in a safe way



Many people with disabilities live in the community.

They should still get the right support to cope and stay well at home.



Everyone who needs mental health support should get it.

Education



Children with disabilities should be able to learn at home if their schools have closed.

This means making lessons easy for them to understand and take part in. And giving them the books and other things they need.



Governments must keep working with people with disabilities to:

- Find out what they need
- Find out if plans about Covid-19 are working for them

What doctors say

There are some things that everyone can do to keep safe from Covid 19.

For example:



- Wash your hands often with soap and hot water



- Do not touch your face with your hands



- Do not spend time with groups of people



Doctors, nurses, and people who help others should wear masks and gloves to keep everyone safe.