



## **Attestation of COVID-19 Vaccine Eligibility for Family Caregivers**

### Information for Healthcare Providers

[The California Department of Developmental Services](#) and the [California Department of Public Health](#) have determined that family caregivers for individuals with certain disabling conditions should be considered healthcare workers eligible for COVID-19 vaccination in Phase 1a. These family caregivers are therefore eligible to be vaccinated now in Alameda County. Family caregivers will be required to obtain attestation of vaccine eligibility from a healthcare provider, which they should present, along with identification, at the time of their COVID-19 vaccination.

### **Which healthcare workers can provide the Attestation?**

Healthcare workers are qualified to provide the attestation if they

- provide clinical, administrative, or case management services to the disabled individual,
- are familiar with their disabling medical condition(s), and
- can verify which family members function as caregivers.

These may include, but are not limited to, healthcare professionals with any of the following credentials:

- Physician (MD or DO)
- Nurse practitioner
- Certified Physician Assistant
- Registered Nurse or Public Health Nurse (RN or PHN)
- Physical and occupational therapists (PT, OT)
- Regional Center Case Manager or provider
- California Children's Services (CCS) Case Manager

### **Which disabling conditions make the family caregivers eligible?**

When a person of any age has a disabling condition that [increases risk for severe COVID-19 infection](#) and requires routine, hands-on care that cannot be delivered in a socially distanced



manner, family caregivers are eligible. DDS and CDPH specifically call out the following conditions:

- Cerebral palsy
- Down Syndrome
- Epilepsy
- Specialized health care needs, including dependence upon ventilators, oxygen, and other technology

This latter category, in particular, requires healthcare providers to exercise clinical judgment when determining eligibility. Several illustrative examples follow:

Condition of the Person with the Disability	Are caregivers eligible?	
	YES	NO
9-year-old with mild cerebral palsy (CP) wears orthotics on both ankles to assist walking. No other underlying conditions.		X
12-year-old with spastic quadriplegia, wheelchair bound, difficulty controlling secretions, and history of aspiration pneumonia requires assistance with ADLs and periodic suctioning	X	
90-year-old with visual impairment, no longer able to drive, otherwise healthy; granddaughter delivers groceries in socially distanced manner.		X
67-year-old with severe rheumatoid arthritis, limited mobility, on immunosuppressive medication; 40-year-old son provides support for all ADLs (cooks, bathes, assists toileting, etc.)	X	
6-month-old infant has Down Syndrome. Are parents eligible?	X	
20-year-old with head injury and tracheostomy, dependent for some ADLs, ventilated at night	X	
30-year-old with diabetes and intellectual disability needs assistance in determining correct insulin doses	X	
15-year-old had a seizure one year ago following a head injury and has been seizure free since then		X
12-year-old has frequent seizures, requiring positioning and suctioning by a caregiver, as well as administration of antiepileptic medicines via G-tube, or rectally during an emergency	X	

When determination of eligibility is uncertain, healthcare providers (nurses, PTs, etc.) are encouraged to discuss cases with the person with the disability’s primary care physician (PCP) or specialist.



## **How is the Attestation provided?**

Healthcare providers may complete an attestation letter and provide it to the family caregiver(s) either:

- in hard copy (in person or by mail), or
- electronically via secure email or other HIPAA compliant technology.

At the time of their vaccine appointment, a family caregiver may show the hard copy or display the electronic copy on a mobile device for vaccine screeners to review.

## **Does this mean that anyone living in the same household as a person with a disability can be vaccinated?**

No. Only those who are directly involved in providing hands-on care are eligible for vaccination as healthcare workers in Phase 1a. These are the individuals who should be listed on the Attestation Letter as family caregivers.