

COVID-19 and Disability Justice Resources

COVID-19 is a Disability Justice issue. Collective access and interdependence are core tenets of Disability Justice. There are medical and social implications of COVID-19 that directly relate to disability. People with underlying conditions are more susceptible to COVID-19 and COVID-19 may also result in acquired disabilities. Also many people are experiencing mental health challenges as a result of isolation during stay at home orders. All of these impacts are disproportionately experienced by Black, Indigenous, and Latinx communities because of the structural and attitudinal barriers of racism in healthcare, community services, and housing.



Additionally, COVID-19 has also brought up the importance of mutual aid and accessibility. Employers are now offering a wider range of options to ensure access for disabled and nondisabled people. People are creating networks of community and care. Centering the voices of people with disabilities is essential to learn about the ongoing work and solidarity that disabled communities have fostered throughout history and what we can learn from them.

Note: This is a working document and it is important to also search current sources to get the most up to date information and resources to support their learning and action to keep our communities safe.

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Disability Justice and Covid-19

Type: Webinar

Summary: This webinar “Disability Justice & COVID-19” was hosted on May 8, 2020. It featured [Dorian Taylor](#) (webinar organizer), [Elandria Williams](#), [Lateef Mcleod](#), [Leroy Moore Jr](#), and chat moderation by [Cyree Jarelle Johnson](#) (webinar organizer). All of these activists work at the nexus of class, race, and disability.

Activity Ideas: Watch the webinar as a group and discuss.

Covid-19 Disability Visibility Podcasts

[Ep 74: Coronavirus and Caregiving with Heather Watkins and Dawn Gibson](#)

[Ep 74a: Coronavirus and Spirituality with Elliot Kukla](#)

[Ep 75: Coronavirus and Disaster Planning with Germán Luis Parodi and Valerie Novack](#)

Type: Podcast

Summary: Three podcasts from Disability Visibility by Alice Wong discussing various aspects of Covid-19 and the disability community.

Activity Ideas: Listen to the podcast(s) and have a group discussion and/or writing prompt. Use the podcast(s) as an introduction to talking about Covid-19 as a Disability Justice issue.

COVID-19 doesn't cancel out the ADA: disability rights during a pandemic

Type: Podcast from The Record with Bill Radke

Summary: From the podcast website: Protesters – and some politicians – say it's time to get back to normal. That some deaths from COVID-19 are inevitable. But whose deaths, and lives, are we talking about? Elderly and immunocompromised people, and folks with disabilities, are among several demographics that are disproportionately at risk for this disease. We spoke to attorney and disability rights advocate Robyn Powell about what she's seeing in the community, and her own experience as someone who relies on in-home carers.

Activity Ideas: Listen to the podcast(s) and have a group discussion and/or writing prompt. Use to discuss relation to disproportionality and intersectionality.

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[To All The Ableds Who Think They Are Special In The Face of #COVID19](#)

Type: Blog post

Summary: In her blog [Crutches and Spice](#), Imani Barbarin writes about the ways that nondisabled people responded to the COVID-19 crisis.

Activity Ideas: Have a conversation about the irresponsible ways that people may have and/or continue to disregard safety measures because they don't believe COVID-19 affects them. Follow that with a brainstorm about how we can ensure health and safety our communities and ourselves.

[Coronavirus made accessibility a priority. It should stay that way when the pandemic ends](#)

Type: Opinion article

Summary: This piece explains the ways that COVID-19 opened up new possibilities and accessibility for disabled people. It also discusses a history of discriminatory practices related to hiring disabled people and the importance of accessibility when the pandemic ends.

Activity Ideas: Brainstorm accessibility techniques during COVID-19 and how schools and businesses can maintain those accessibility practices when the pandemic ends.

[#NoBodyIsDisposable](#)

Type: Website and Twitter hashtag

Summary: This website is for the campaign for #NoBodyIsDisposable. From the "About Page" on the website: "We are people targeted by triage plans during the COVID-19 pandemic — people with disabilities, fat people, old people, people with HIV/AIDS or other illnesses — and our loved ones who don't want us to die. We partner with social justice and civil rights organizations, as well as medical professionals to demand policies that avoid triage and avoid discrimination in triage."

Activity Ideas: Students could explore the website and consider what actions have been taking in their city and state to support people who have been targeted during the COVID-19 pandemic. Students could search Twitter and read current posts about #NoBodyIsDisposable.

[Disabled Oracles and the Coronavirus - Disability Visibility Project](#)

Type: Blog post with resource list

Summary: This blog post includes a summary of the important responses from the disability community in the face of COVID-19. There is a series of Twitter posts and links to articles/websites.

Activity Ideas: Have students skim the page and choose one article to read. Based on examples in the blog post, students can write a Twitter post with their key takeaways.

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[Rooted in Rights: COVID-19 Resources](#)

Type: Resource list

Summary: From the website: As we navigate responding to COVID-19, we cannot leave the disability community behind. [These] pieces are part of our series on perspectives from disabled and chronically ill people regarding COVID-19.

Activity Ideas: Have students skim the page and choose one article to read. In small groups, students can share out what they learned from their article.

[Dealing with COVID-19: Resource for People with Disabilities](#)

Type: Website

Summary: This website provides a variety of resources designed to discuss COVID-19 with students with developmental disabilities. The resources include materials with picture symbols, videos, and communication boards.

Activity Ideas: Use one or more of the activities provided.

[Social Distancing and Crip Survival: A Disability Centered Response to COVID-19](#)

Type: Blog post

Summary: Sins Invalid outlines COVID-19 as a Disability Justice issue and includes authentic narratives by people with disabilities about their experiences during this time. This page also includes links to resources for skill sharing, public health information, mutual aid, and art produced by people with disabilities.

Activity Ideas: Read this post and discuss why COVID-19 is important to consider as a Disability Justice issue and what students learn from the narratives.

[Youth Voices: Impact of COVID-19 in Our Lives](#)

Type: UNICEF article

Summary: A youth shares her experience during COVID-19 in South Africa. She writes about the impact on her family and community. At the end of the article she asks readers a question: What is the most important thing and person to you right now and what have you learnt during this time?

Activity Ideas: Ask students to reflect and share responses to the author's questions.