



PPS- PSDBP Statement on Covid-19 Vaccination in People with Neurodevelopmental Disabilities

15 June 2021

The PSDBP recommends Covid-19 vaccination for all individuals with neurodevelopmental disabilities 12 years of age and older who do not have any contraindications in the use of a Covid-19 vaccine authorized thru Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) by the Philippine Food and Drug Administration (FDA) , as recommended by the CDC. ^{1,2}

Together with the Philippine Pediatric Society (PPS) and the Pediatric Infectious Disease Society of the Philippine (PIDSP), we acknowledge that children and adolescents (12 -18 years) with neurodevelopmental disabilities may be vaccinated.

However, given the limited vaccine supply, older and more vulnerable age groups will be prioritized. ¹ Once adequate supply is available in the country, children and adolescents with neurodevelopmental disabilities with accompanying co-morbidities may be given precedence for vaccination.

1. People with neurodevelopmental disabilities are a diverse group which may put them at different levels of risk for covid-19. Individual factors like difficulty wearing masks, observing distancing protocol, residing in child care institutions, reliance in community based services , etc. should be considered.³
2. People with neurodevelopmental disabilities are also more likely than those without disabilities to have chronic health conditions. A person with comorbid condition is at higher risk for severe covid-19, just as a non-PWD.⁴
3. Where possible and if needed, provide practical supports to people with neurodevelopmental disabilities to successfully access vaccination (i.e. live guidance and assistance for those who need it, more compassionate handling, done in a quiet and more spacious area, etc).

People with neurodevelopmental disabilities must be valued and cared for by the society they belong to. They must not be denied medical care based on stereotypes, severity of their disorder, perceived quality of life nor judgment about a person's relative worth.

REFERENCES

1. PPS-PSDBP Statement on Covid-19 Vaccines for Children. 7 June 2021
2. Committee on Infectious Diseases. Covid-19 Vaccines in Children and Adolescents. Pediatrics 2021 . Accessed at <https://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/early/2021/05/11/peds.2021-052336>
3. Disability Considerations for Covid-19 Vaccination: WHO and UNICEF Policy Brief, 19 April 2021. Accessed at <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/who-2019-ncov-vaccination-and-disability-policy-brief-2021.1>
4. Medical Conditions. Covid-19 - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention,13 May 2021 . Accessed at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-with-medical-conditions.html>