



Western Cape Forum for Intellectual Disability

WESKAAP FORUM VIR INTELLEKTUELE GESTREMDHEID - IQUMRHU LE NTSHONA KOLONI LOKHUBAZEKO NGENGOQONDO

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ADVOCACY RESPONSE TO COVID-19

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1OO1tw_InbTD4Z9sGSFe2ZJpOybRJbzGO/view?usp=sharing

In January 2020, we alerted the MAC, via the People’s Vaccine Alliance (African Alliance) and People’s Vaccine Campaign, to our concerns about the current silence on vaccines for carers who support children with severe to profound intellectual disability at special day care centres (NGOs), given their vulnerability. Our concern is confirmed by medical professionals:

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/jppi.12352>

<https://adc.bmj.com/content/archdischild/early/2021/01/04/archdischild-2020-321225.full.pdf>

In summary, it appears that the vaccine has not yet been deemed safe for children (or children with severe to profound intellectual disability), however it is recommended that their caregivers are vaccinated as a priority, given the comorbidities of the children they serve. The children are at these special care centres because the Department of Basic Education refuses them admission at public schools.

Children with neuro-developmental disability are at risk of more severe or fatal Covid-19. Vaccination of those who provide services to them (e.g. at education centres) is recommended to limit the potential of infecting this vulnerable group of children.

A SUPPORT NETWORK FOR TRAINING - ADVOCACY - RESOURCES



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