



Letter or email from a person with Down syndrome:

Dear Dr. Cohen/Dear Governor Cooper,

As a person with Down syndrome, I was cautiously optimistic when the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) added Down syndrome to the list of conditions of increased risk of severe illness due to COVID-19. Based on the CDC's announcement, this placed me in Group 2 for priority for vaccination. However, with the recent restructuring of the vaccine priority list, people with Down syndrome in North Carolina have moved down the list to Group 4. This places me in a precarious situation.

- Patients with Down syndrome have an estimated 4-fold increased risk for COVID-19–related hospitalization <https://www.acpjournals.org/doi/full/10.7326/M20-4986>
- Patients with Down syndrome have an estimated 10-fold increased risk for COVID-19–related death <https://www.acpjournals.org/doi/full/10.7326/M20-4986>
- The risk of death increases for patients with Down syndrome age 40 and older (similar to patients without Down syndrome age 80 and older) <https://www.t21rs.org/results-from-covid-19-and-down-syndrome-survey/>

The number of adults with Down syndrome living in North Carolina who anticipate receiving the vaccination will have less impact on the system compared to the mortality and healthcare outcomes and the required hospitalization and critical care likely for patients with Down syndrome.

Please reconsider the placement of individuals with Down syndrome on the list of priority for vaccines for COVID-19 to include.