



North Carolina
Down Syndrome Alliance
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**North Carolina Down Syndrome Alliance's (NCDSA) interpretation of
North Carolina Health and Human Services (NCHHS):**

[Deeper Dive Group 1- Health Care Workers and Long-Term Care Staff and Residents](#) (as of 2/3/21)

Parents of medically fragile children who provide care in their homes qualify under Group 1 based on the following information taken from Deeper Drive Group 1:

*Health care workers in Group 1 are those with in-person patient contact. Health care workers in this group are defined as paid and **unpaid persons** serving in health care settings who have the potential for direct or indirect exposure to patients, bodies, or infectious materials. This group also includes individuals who are involved in COVID-19 vaccination efforts, including health care personnel and volunteers supporting vaccination efforts.*

*Health care settings include, **but are not limited to**, settings such as:*

- hospitals
- long-term care facilities
- outpatient clinics
- vaccination sites
- **home health care**
- public health clinical services
- emergency medical services
- mortuaries
- pharmacies

*Health care workers with in-person patient contact can include **but are not limited to**:*

- **Home caregivers providing regular medical care to medically fragile children and adults**

Deeper Dive Group 1 clearly defines parent and family caregiver status despite staff at some vaccine distribution centers having trouble with the interpretation. The [Centers for Disease Control](#) lists Down syndrome as a condition for increased risk. Additionally, NCDSA believes staff at vaccine clinics cannot ask for documentation of your child's medical condition as it violates HIPAA Laws.

NCDSA's best advice is for parents and family caregivers go to their vaccine appointment confident they are included in Group 1. Bring a copy of Deeper Dive Group 1 or have access to it on your phone.

There are many locations taking appointments for vaccines as well as drive through clinics. Search the [NCHHS site](#) for vaccine locations and follow [NCDSA on Facebook](#) for updates. Frequently check [WakeMed](#), [Duke Health](#), and [UNC Health](#) websites as well as other hospitals and each county's health department.

NCDSA is [actively advocating](#) to get adults with Down syndrome priority on the vaccine list. However, in the meantime, NCDSA encourages parents and family caregivers to take advantage of their place on the vaccine priority list to protect their loved one if they choose.