



Deafblindness and COVID-19

What governments should do



easy
read

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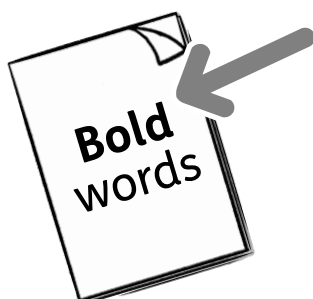
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In this easy read document, difficult words are in **bold**. We explain what these words mean in the sentence after they have been used.



Some words are blue and underlined. These are links which will go to another website which has more information.

Introduction



The World Federation of the Deafblind works around the world to speak up for the **rights** of people with **deafblindness**.



Rights are the things that every person should have or be able to do, by law.



Deafblindness is a disability where you have a serious difficulty with both your hearing and your eyesight.



We have written this Easy Read information to explain:

- more about deafblindness.
- what the world should do to help people with deafblindness while there is **COVID-19**.



COVID-19 is an illness that has spread around the world. It affects your lungs and breathing.

People have had to change how they live to keep safe from COVID-19.

People with deafblindness

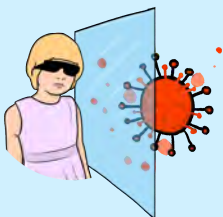


Nearly 2 out of every 100 people have deafblindness.

This is over 600 million people in the world.



Most of these people have deafblindness because they are getting old - over age 75.



Deafblindness and COVID-19

We have all had to change how we live to keep ourselves safe from COVID-19.



It has been hard for people to go out and get the things they need for daily living.



It has been hard for disabled people to get the support they need because of COVID-19.

It has been especially hard for people with deafblindness, who need a lot of support for daily living.

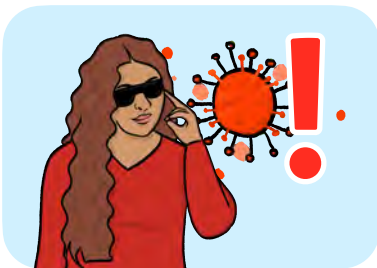


Older people and COVID-19

Older people have suffered more than younger people with COVID-19.



Many people with deafblindness are older.



They have had a very difficult time staying safe from COVID-19.

Disabled people's rights



The **United Nations** (UN) has written the **rights** of disabled people.

The **United Nations** (UN) is an organisation made up of many countries working together. It works to make the world a safer and better place.

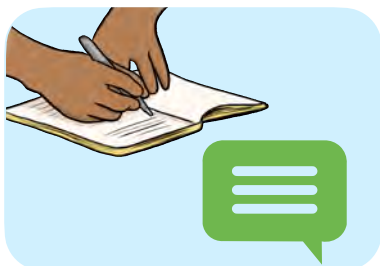


Rights are things you are allowed to have and do by law.



The United Nations says that people with deafblindness have the right to:

- information.
- communication - this is the way people share information. It includes speaking and writing.
- services that help you to live independently and to take part in things.



Working together



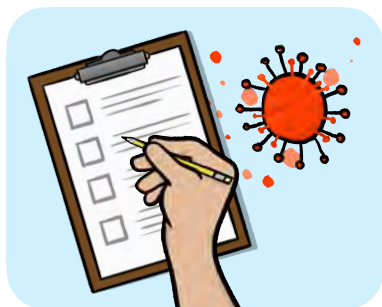
We have been working with other organisations to make sure that people with deafblindness get their rights and the services they need while there is COVID-19.



We have been working with:

- the European Deafblind Union (EDbU).
- the African Federation of the Deafblind (AFDB).
- the Latin American Federation of the Deafblind (FLASC).
- the World Federation of the Deafblind (WFDB).

What the world should do



We have written a list of things that should be done to help people with deafblindness while there is COVID-19.



These things should be done by:

- the United Nations.



- the World Health Organisation - this is part of the United Nations and looks at the health of people all around the world.



- the European Union - this is a group of countries in Europe whose governments work together.



- governments of all the countries in the world.

We want these governments and organisations to do these things:



- Make sure people with deafblindness can get the information they need in a way that they can understand.



- Make sure that people with deafblindness can get all the services they need while there is COVID-19.



- Make sure information that is given online is easy to understand.



- Make sure people with deafblindness and their carers have all the equipment that they need to keep safe while there is COVID-19.



- Give deafblind interpreters the same help to stay safe as other care workers.



- Give services training in how to help and support people with deafblindness.



- Make sure people with deafblindness get the help they need when they are staying indoors, away from other people to stop COVID-19 from spreading.



- Make sure all schooling or training that is done online can be done by people with deafblindness.



- Make sure people with deafblindness can get an interpreter when they need one.



- Make sure people with deafblindness get all the food and medicines that they need.



- Make sure that ambulances, health staff and police know how to work with people with deafblindness.



We would be happy to help the United Nations and the other organisations to make sure people with deafblindness get their rights and the services that they need.

For more information



You can look at our website here:

www.wfdb.eu

If you need more information please contact us by:



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This Easy Read information has been produced by easy-read-online.co.uk