



## State of Wisconsin

Governor's Committee for People with Disabilities

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### Issue: Health and Safety of Individuals with Dementia

This pandemic and related prevention and safety measures has been especially difficult for individuals with dementia and their families to understand. Given the risks that older adults face from both COVID-19 and dementia, The [Centers for Disease Control has provided additional guidance to caregivers of adults with Alzheimer's disease and other types of dementia](#) to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and to help them manage their patients' physical and mental wellbeing as well as their own wellbeing. However, not all people living with dementia require caregivers. Therefore, the degree of assistance a person needs will depend on the extent that their dementia has progressed. For people living with dementia, changes in behavior or worsening symptoms of dementia should be evaluated because they can be an indication of worsening stress and anxiety as well as COVID-19 or other infections.

### Recommendation:

- GCPD recommends that a Living Well Toolkit be developed for individuals with dementia and their families, modeled after the [Board for People with Development Disabilities COVID-19 Resource Toolkit](https://wi-bpdd.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/LW-Covid-Toolkit-Final-Full.pdf) (<https://wi-bpdd.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/LW-Covid-Toolkit-Final-Full.pdf>), which has recently been published. The toolkit focuses on how individuals can stay healthy, stay safe, and stay connected during this pandemic.