



State of Wisconsin

Governor's Committee for People with Disabilities

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Issue: Testing and Vaccinations for Individuals who are Homebound

Individuals who are homebound due to disability, mobility issues, age, or receiving Hospice care are able to receive flu shots from their local health departments. However, due to the pandemic, health departments are not offering this service. While they aren't subject to community spread, they do have caregivers (both paid and unpaid) entering their homes on a daily basis and are at risk for exposure to the flu and COVID-19. In addition, although some of these individuals may receive home healthcare through a visiting nurse or doctor, but these medical professionals do not have a mechanism to access the flu vaccine in order to provide it in home. This will also be a challenge with the forthcoming COVID-19 vaccine to be delivered to homebound individuals.

In addition, if an older adult or person with a disability learns they have been exposed to COVID-19 by a caregiver or family member and needs a COVID-19 test, there is currently no way for these individuals to be tested in the safety of their homes.

Recommendations:

- GCPD recommends that DHS contract with home health agencies or other providers who are able to provide flu shots, COVID vaccines, and/or COVID-19 tests to individuals who are homebound and cannot get to a medical facility for vaccines and testing.
- GCPD recommends creating a waiver or way for visiting nurses and physicians to obtain the flu and COVID-19 vaccine so they are able to administer them to homebound individuals.