

COVID-19 and disability: people with disabilities
Interview guide [EXAMPLE – ADAPTED FOR EACH COUNTRY]

Introduce yourself, go through information sheet and ethics, confirm consent.

1. Can you tell me about your [disability/health difficulties]? For example, what are activities you find difficult to do?
 - a. Probe (examples): Anything else that find difficult to do? Who helps?

Section 1: Knowledge of COVID-19

2. What have you heard of COVID-19 or coronavirus? [Describe/use terms used locally as needed. If no knowledge of COVID-19, skip to next section] Where do you get your information about COVID-19 from? [If disability affects communication]: is the information you needed in a format that you can access on your own?
3. How concerned are you about COVID-19?
 - a. Prompts: What are your concerns? Why is it that you feel that way?
4. Do you think you are at risk of catching COVID-19 the same as everyone else? If no, more or less? Why/why not?
 - a. If you catch COVID-19, do you think you are at the risk of getting severely sick the same as everyone else?
 - b. Who do you think is at greater risk? Where would you put yourself in the risk scale?
5. What have you heard about ways you can protect yourself and others from getting coronavirus?
6. Please tell me about your experience following different national COVID-19 protective measures [adapt to rules of the setting].
 - a. Social distancing?
 - i. *Prompts for each measure*: How do you do this/what do you think about it? What challenges, if any, do you face in following this? How do you feel about maintaining these measures? Do you receive assistance? If yes, who? What/who, if anything/anyone, has helped you to follow these measures? What, if anything, could make it easier for you to follow these measures?
 - b. Lockdowns?
 - i. *Prompts for each measure*: What challenges, if any, do you face in following this? What/who, if anything/anyone, has helped you to follow these measures? What, if anything, could make it easier for you to follow these measures?
 - c. Self-isolating?
 - i. *Prompts for each measure*: What challenges, if any, do you face in following this? What/who, if anything/anyone, has helped you to follow these measures? What, if anything, could make it easier for you to follow these measures?
 - d. Frequent hand washing?
 - i. *Prompts for each measure*: What challenges, if any, do you face in following this? What/who, if anything/anyone, has helped you to

follow these measures? What, if anything, could make it easier for you to follow these measures?

- e. Wearing masks?
 - i. *Prompts for each measure:* What challenges, if any, do you face in following this? What/who, if anything/anyone, has helped you to follow these measures? What, if anything, could make it easier for you to follow these measures?

Section 2: Impact of Coronavirus epidemic

READ OUT LOUD: Now I would like to know more about your situation before and during the past year of the pandemic. For each topic, I would like you to first think of a normal week [reference a specific time period] before Covid-19 restrictions. Then I would like to ask about your experience during the LAST YEAR of COVID-19, including times when there have been more restrictions (e.g. lockdowns, curfews) than there might be now.

- 7. [Note to interviewer: remember for each topic to discuss their situation BEFORE in full, and THEN focus on how it has changed throughout the last year].
 - a) your work (if relevant)
 - BEFORE:
 - Were you employed/self-employed? Discuss occupation, hours, salary, getting to work (commuting), if employer provided any adjustments because of their disability; relationship with employer/fellow workers
 - DURING COVID-19:
 - In what ways, if any, has your work changed?
 - *Probe:* Stopped working at any point? If yes, what happened?
 - *Probe:* Changes to type of work (e.g. remote work), hours, pay, extra prevention measures, getting to work
 - *Probe:* How are you managing with these changes? Are these changes similar for others at your workplace/doing the same work as you?
 - If not working/working less at any point, were/are you receiving any form of income/in-kind support from your employer or government?
 - How did/are you coping with reduced earnings?
 - b) School (if relevant) [Note to interviewer: if the child is over 10 years, involve them in this section. Remember they must have given their assent before answering any questions]
 - BEFORE
 - Discuss type of school (special, inclusive, integrated, mainstream, boarding, madrasa); what type of disability-related support, if any, needed at school
 - DURING COVID-19
 - How, if at all, has your schooling changed due to COVID-19? *Prompts:* Has your school closed at any point? Have you been given any schoolwork to do at home (e.g. distance/self-guided learning)? How do

you feel about these changes (prompts: e.g. impact on learning? Social life? What has been difficult/helpful in adjusting to these changes?) Who helped you study at home/community? Has the school contacted them during the closures? Can you contact the teacher for getting help? What do you like/dislike about the online classes? What have you learned during the last year?

- If in a boarding school – has there been changes in the cost of food/board?

c) health services for your disability (including rehabilitation, specialists etc)

- BEFORE

- Prompts: What types of health services or products (e.g. medications, assistive devices such as a wheelchair, walking stick, hearing aids, etc) did you use on a regular basis for your impairment? How do you typically access these?

- DURING COVID

- Prompts: Consistently able to access the same health services/products for your impairment?
- *If no:* how have you been managing without these services/products? What has been the impact? What challenges have prevented you from accessing these services/products?
- *If yes:* what, if any, challenges have you faced accessing these services/products during COVID-19? What, if anything, has helped you maintain access to these services/products?

d) any general health needs (including GP, pharmacy etc)

- BEFORE

- Prompts: What types of health services or products (e.g. medications) did you use on a regular basis for your general health? How do you typically access these?

- DURING COVID-19:

- Prompt: Consistently able to access the same health services/products for your general health?
- *If no:* how have you been managing without these services/products? What challenges made it difficult for you to access these services/products?
- *If yes:* what, if any, challenges have you faced accessing these services/products? What, if anything, has helped you maintain access to these services/products?

e) assistance from others

- BEFORE

- Did you require any assistance? Did you receive any assistance anyone, including family/friends, for doing daily activities? This might include assisting you with daily life activities (e.g. helping you clean, dress yourself, cook, move around)? *If yes:* who provides this, what do they do, paid/unpaid?

- DURING COVID-19
 - Any changes to this assistance (e.g. provider, frequency/amount, type)? *If yes*: in what ways? How have you been managing with these changes? *If no*: what, if any, challenges have you faced to maintaining this assistance?
- f) ability to get food and other essentials
- BEFORE
 - Prompts: How do you typically get the food you need? Frequency?
 - DURING COVID-19
 - Throughout COVID-19 have there been any changes to your ability to access food/essentials you need? (*Prompts*: Amount? Price? Way you get food?
 - *If any changes*: how have you been coping with this?
 - Prompt: how, if at all, has self-isolating/lockdowns/curfews impacted your ability to get food?
- g) your household's financial situation
- BEFORE
 - Who used to work in the household? How were the household finances?
 - Did you or anyone else in your household typically receive support from the government (e.g. Disability Allowance, Old Age Pension) or an organisation such as a regular cash transfer, food vouchers? *If yes*: discuss (programme, amount, regularity, how you access it)?
 - During COVID-19
 - Who is working now? Has anyone lost/changed their job, had a change in hours/salary during the last year?
 - What, if any, changes has there been to the support you receive from the government/an organisation?
 - Have you begun received any new support due to COVID-19 (e.g. free/cheaper electricity)? *If yes*, tell me about this. (*Prompts*: how did you enrol? How helpful is it?)
- h) your lifestyle and social life.
- BEFORE
 - Prompts: what do you typically do in your time off?
 - DURING COVID-19
 - Prompts: Any changes in your lifestyle/social life (e.g. who you can see, what activities you can do, where you can go – examples could include weddings, funerals, disability group meetings)? *If yes*: what changes? how have you been coping with this change? What has made it difficult to maintain your regular lifestyle/social life?
8. The COVID-19 pandemic has affected many people physically, financially, and also mentally, which can make many people feel stressed or anxious. What is your experience, in terms of these feelings?
- a. How have you been coping with these feelings?

9. [Note to interviewer: don't ask if they have already described this previously]: The following questions are about your health and Coronavirus. It is up to you if you would like to share this. Please know that everything you tell me will be kept private and confidential.
- a. Have you personally had the Coronavirus? What effect did it have on your health and wellbeing? Did you have symptoms (e.g. cough, high fever, loss of smell)? What did you do?
 - b. What was your experience of seeking healthcare (e.g. testing, going to the hospital, if relevant)?
 - c. What other measures did you follow (e.g. isolation at home, in an institution)? Tell me about your experience with this (e.g. any challenges, what was helpful).
10. The rollout of covid vaccines is now happening for certain people, such as healthcare workers. What have you heard about vaccines for coronavirus? (*Prompts: Where did you get this information?*)
- a. Have you been vaccinated?
 - i. If yes, tell me about your experience getting the vaccine (*Prompts: getting appointment? going to the site? Interaction with staff?*)
 - ii. Has your caregiver been vaccinated?
 - b. Are you eligible to be vaccinated now?
 - c. Do you plan on getting vaccinated when it is offered to you? Why/why not?
 - i. *Prompt: What if, anything, would make it difficult for you to get vaccinated? What would help?*
11. Thinking of the different areas we have discussed, what services or interventions would have made things easier for your... during COVID-19 [*Note to interviewers: probe based on specific challenges they described earlier*]
- a) Work/school
 - b) specialist health
 - c) general health
 - d) social care
 - e) ability to get food and other essentials
 - f) lifestyle and social life
 - g) Other

Section 3: Wider context

10. How have family/community discussions and media about COVID-19 affected you?
11. Do you feel that the needs of people with disabilities have been adequately considered by the government during the Coronavirus epidemic? Why/why not?

12. Is there anything else you would like to say about the impact of the Coronavirus epidemic?

13. How have you doing this interview on video/phone instead of in person? What if any, changes could we have made to the interview to improve your experience?