

## International Conference: Disability and COVID-19

We invite you to join the 6<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Disability and Development.

The Conference will be hosted by the International Center for Evidence in Disability (ICED), London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, London, UK.

**Date:** 14-17 March 2022, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. GMT each day  
**Venue:** Virtual

COVID-19 has dominated global discourse for the last 18 months as the pandemic impacts everyone, everywhere. There is growing evidence that people with disabilities and their families are particularly at risk during the pandemic, in terms of:

- 1) Increased risk of death and hospitalization;
- 2) Exclusion from the COVID-19 response actions (e.g. information, vaccination);
- 3) Adverse consequences of COVID-19 control activities (e.g. lockdown and social distancing);
- 4) Negative impacts on health (e.g. reduction in rehabilitation care).

The Conference seeks to bring together people to discuss and debate **Disability and COVID-19**. The focus will be on new research findings, methodologies and tools and implications of evidence for policy and practice. The focus will include both low-, middle- and high-income settings as well as humanitarian contexts.

**Who should attend?** All those with a strong interest in disability and COVID-19 are very welcome to attend, and this may include researchers, policy activists, decision-makers and practitioners. People with disabilities are particularly encouraged to submit abstracts and attend.

Participants will have the opportunity to attend keynote addresses from international experts, and contribute to panel discussions, training workshops and presentations. Key-note speakers to be announced!

Topics for the conference will include:

- **What evidence exists on risk of adverse consequences from COVID-19 among people with disabilities?**
  - Evidence of impact on COVID-19 mortality and morbidity
  - Evidence of impact on functioning, quality of life and health
  - Evidence of impact on livelihood, poverty, education and other life domains

- **What difficulties do people with disabilities and their families/carers face in participation in COVID-19 response activities?**
  - Results from evaluations and qualitative research on disability inclusion in preventative (e.g. WASH services, vaccines roll-out, social distancing) and mitigation (e.g. social protection) measures
- **Methodological issues in investigating disability and COVID-19**
  - Approaches to undertaking qualitative and quantitative studies at a distance
  - Use of routine data for measuring COVID-19 impacts
  - Disaggregating collected data by disability or functional domains
- **How do we use evidence to inform disability-inclusive COVID-19 response?**
  - Case studies of activities to promote disability-inclusive COVID-19 responses
  - Activities needed to “build back” more inclusive systems post COVID-19
  - Opportunities and challenges of using research evidence to influence policies and practice

**Abstract submission for oral/poster presentation is now open.**

Abstracts up to 250 words should be submitted. We will accept abstracts focusing on empirical data from primary research and secondary data analyses, or abstracts that drive theory. We particularly welcome abstracts focusing on the topics outlined above.

**Restricted to one first author abstract per participant**

**Deadline for abstract submission December 31, 2021. Deadline for conference registrations February 28, 2022.**

Please download the abstract and registration form at: [disabilitycentre.lshtm.ac.uk](https://disabilitycentre.lshtm.ac.uk). Please submit the form to: [disabilitycentre@lshtm.ac.uk](mailto:disabilitycentre@lshtm.ac.uk). If submitting registration only, please leave abstract form blank.

Accommodations will be put in place to maximise participation.

**Fees:**

- Free –applicants from low- and middle-income settings, or students from UK
- £50 – applicants from high income settings