Let’s talk about infectious disease!

People with intellectual disability have a right to talk about infectious diseases that effect their group home or community. An infectious disease is an illness you can catch from other people, like COVID-19, the ‘flu, HIV, or gastro.

Below are some things that people with intellectual disability may like to talk about with someone they trust, like a family member, GP or health professional, or house manager.

What do you want to know about this infection, outbreak, or lockdown?

Is there anything you don't like hearing about?

How do you want to learn about this outbreak or lockdown?

What information/posters do you want in your home?

How are you feeling about this outbreak or lockdown?

What would help you to feel better?

How do you feel about getting vaccinated, tested, or getting a treatment?

What do you want to know about this?

Who should know about your private health information? For example, knowing your test results or if you have been vaccinated?

What helps us to stay safe from this infection?

How do you feel about doing the things that keep us safe?

What health rules should we have in our home to keep each other safe?

How would this affect each person in the house?

What could help our community or country to stay safe?

Would you like to help with this? How do you want to be involved?

What do you want your family/friends, your group home service, the community, or the Government to know about?

How should we tell them?

# Health Communication Tips for Group Homes

* Simple language, video, audio, pictures and posters, sign language, touch, or demonstrations can help some people to understand and share information.
* Set aside time to discuss health topics regularly. If it’s hard to find enough time, talk to a manager.
* Communication should be appropriate for the person’s age and culture.
* A speech pathologist can help to find the best communication resources and strategies for every person in the home.
* Refer questions about health to a manager or health professional if you don’t know the answer.
* Not all health information is reliable. Fact-check what you hear using Government information or ask a health professional for advice.

For more information and resources, please visit our project site:

[Inclusive Health Communication for SDA – Inclusive Health Research (deakin.edu.au)](https://blogs.deakin.edu.au/inclusivehealth/our-projects/inclusive-health-communication-for-sda/)