

BA & TiDBITS

LEGAL NEWS & other

Disability-Related info



MARCH

2021



MARCH is
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
AWARENESS MONTH:

Life Side by Side

Happy
St. Patrick's Day



BRAIN INJURY
AWARENESS MONTH



CEREBRAL
PALSY
Awareness
Month



Multiple
Sclerosis
Awareness
Month

March 1 - International Wheel Chair Day
March 21 - World Down Syndrome Day
March 26 - Purple Day for Epilepsy



What You Should Know About Persons with Disabilities

- No. 10 Let me hold onto your elbow ... don't take mine.
- No. 9 Watch the person signing, and not their interpreter—or their companion.
- No. 8 Just because I'm blind does not mean I'm deaf. Just because I'm deaf doesn't mean I'm blind.
- No. 7 Don't take it personally if someone with a service animal asks you not to touch or pet the animal. Only approach or touch the animal if you are given permission.
- No. 6 Assistive devices help us to live our lives. Don't assume you can touch the devices.
- No. 5 Please ask first before trying to help. If you're not sure, just ask.
- No. 4 Please respect handicapped parking spaces.
- No. 3 We make our own decisions, sign our own documents, vote, volunteer, work, pay taxes, and get married.
- No. 2 Just treat us the way you'd want to be treated, and we'll all be ok. We need the same things that everybody needs, such as respect.

— AND THE —

No. 1

: Focus on the person, not the disability!

What People with Disabilities Need to Know about COVID-19

Wyoming Department of Health

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DIVISIONS | COVID-19 | NEWS | CONTACT US

Immunization Unit

- Child Care Programs
- Wyoming COVID-19 Vaccine Information
- COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Data
- County COVID-19 Vaccine Information
- Wyoming COVID-19 Vaccine Information for Providers
- Resources for Other Vaccines During Pandemic
- Healthcare Professionals
- Immunization Data
- Influenza (Flu)
- Patients, Parents, and Guardians
- Schools (K-12)
- Statutes & Rules
- Unit Contacts

County COVID-19 Vaccine Information

Click on your county to find contact information, status updates, and other COVID-19 vaccine availability, plans, and communication details.

For other key information, please visit our main [COVID-19 Vaccine Information page](#).

Albany	Big Horn	Campbell	Carbon	Converse
Crook	Fremont	Goshen	Hot Springs	Johnson
Laramie	Lincoln	Natrona	Niobrara	Park
Platte	Sheridan	Sublette	Sweetwater	Teton
Uinta	Washakie	Weston		

Albany County Public Health Department
609 S. 2nd Street
Laramie, WY 82070
307-721-2561

Now scheduling COVID vaccine appointments for those 75+ years of age. If you are 75 years old or older and have not scheduled your appointment, please call 307-766-8222.

If you are 65-74 years of age, please complete the [Pre-registration form](#)

Who are we vaccinating?

- We are continuing to vaccinate **Phase 1b: Priority Groups 1-3** during the week of February 1, 2021.
 - Phase 1b, Priority Group 1:** Fire, police, 911, correctional staff, search and rescue, and other in-person emergency response personnel not included in Phase 1a (including ancillary support for air ambulance and hospitals and Department of Family Services case workers)
 - Phase 1b, Priority Group 2:** Funeral service practitioners and in-person employees necessary for funerals
 - Phase 1b, Priority Group 3:** People who are 75 years of age or older. (Due to the limited doses of vaccine, we will offer appointments to those 65-74 years of age at a later date as vaccine becomes available.)

Source: <https://health.wyo.gov/publichealth/immunization/wyoming-covid-19-vaccine-information/county-covid-19-vaccine-information/>

NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR THE COVID-19 RESPONSE AND PANDEMIC PREPAREDNESS

JANUARY 2021

New National Strategy on COVID-19 Response

A recently released strategic plan on pandemic response and preparedness includes several provisions to address impacts on high-risk communities, including elders and people with disabilities.

To read the report, go to: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/National-Strategy-for-the-COVID-19-Response-and-Pandemic-Preparedness.pdf>.

Note to Self: TBI Traumatic Brain Injury

10 Things People with a Brain Injury Would Like to Hear...

brainline

All about brain injury and PTSD

BrainLine is a national multimedia project offering authoritative information and support to anyone whose life has been affected by brain injury or PTSD: people with brain injuries, their family and friends, and the professionals who work with them. Every individual's experience with traumatic brain injury is unique, but there are many common symptoms and emotions. Anger, fear, depression, and anxiety may be accompanied by difficulties with memory, pain, and the challenges of maintaining relationships. BrainLine asked its online community to share the things they would most like to hear from their friends and family, and the list below captures some of the many responses provided by people with TBI.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. I'm sorry. How can I help? | 6. Take your time — we are not in a hurry. |
| 2. Please tell me what having a TBI is like. Can you tell me where I can read more about TBI? | 7. When are you going grocery shopping, I want to go, too. Or, what yard work can I come do? |
| 3. I don't know how you feel, but you are my friend and I will always be there for you. | 8. I don't know what to say but I'm sorry it happened to you. |
| 4. I admire your willpower. You will get through this. | 9. The you that is YOU hasn't changed. You just have a harder time thinking than you used to. |
| 5. I know I don't understand what it's like, but I will try my hardest to be patient and understanding. | 10. I will bring you some delicious healthy brain foods and snacks, but don't worry, I won't stay too long. |

Source: <https://www.brainline.org/article/10-things-people-brain-injury-would-hear>

Accessibility News



White House Briefings Will Now Include an American Sign Language Interpreter

The Biden administration press secretary, Jen Psaki, recently announced that an American Sign Language (ASL) interpreter will attend every daily White House press briefing, as part of the administration's accessibility and inclusion efforts.



THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

\$2.25 Million Fund Available in DOJ Settlement with Amtrak

On Dec. 2, 2020, the Department of Justice (DOJ) and Amtrak, the National Railroad Passenger Corporation, entered into an agreement to resolve the DOJ's findings of disability discrimination in violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Under the agreement, Amtrak will fix inaccessible stations and pay \$2.25 million to victims hurt by inaccessibility at 78 stations, including stations in Nebraska, North Dakota, Kansas and Utah.

To be eligible for monetary compensation, an individual must:

- Have a mobility disability;
- Be harmed physically or emotionally because of accessibility issues, including, for example, inaccessible parking; steep slopes or steps to get to the station; lack of directional signs; toilet rooms with inaccessible entrances, stalls, or sinks; high ticket counters; deteriorated platforms; and narrow routes at stations, at one or more of the stations listed below between July 27, 2013, and Dec. 2, 2020;
- Have lived at, visited, or desired to visit a place closer to one or more of the stations listed than an accessible, alternative Amtrak station; and
- Submit a claim form and declaration by mail, fax, email or online to the claims administrator by no later than May 29, 2021. Help is available from the settlement administrator for those who are unable to complete the claim form due to a disability.

Questions about making claims should be directed to the settlement administrator by any of the following methods:

Online: AmtrakDisabilitySettlement.com
Email: info@AmtrakDisabilitySettlement.com
Telephone (toll-free): 1-888-334-6165
TTY Telephone (toll-free): 1-866-411-6976

Under the agreement, Amtrak has committed to make its intercity rail stations accessible, prioritizing stations with the most significant barriers to access. Over the next 10 years, Amtrak will design at least 135 stations to be accessible, complete construction at 90 of those stations, and have at least 45 more under construction. Amtrak will also train staff on ADA requirements and implement an agreed-upon process for accepting and handling ADA complaints. As part of this commitment, Amtrak recently established an Office of the Vice President of Stations, Properties & Accessibility to coordinate its compliance with the ADA.

For more information and to identify the 78 stations for which claims may be submitted, go to: <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/225-million-fund-available-justice-department-settlement-amtrak>

U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission

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Home Fiscal Year 2020 Annual Performance Report

Fiscal Year 2020 Annual Performance Report



The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) released its **Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 Annual Performance Report (APR)**. The report shows a substantial decrease in the number of lawsuits filed by the agency. However, it also shows a dramatic increase in monetary recoveries compared to FY 2019.

To read the report, go to: <https://www.eeoc.gov/fiscal-year-2020-annual-performance-report>

Nike has agreed to provide employees in its California stores with transparent face masks and pen and paper to accommodate customers who are deaf and hearing-impaired for as long as its COVID-19 policy to provide face masks remains in effect (*Bunn v. Nike, Inc.*, No. 4:20-cv-07403 (N.D. Calif., Jan. 27, 2021)).

For more information, go to: <https://www.hrdiver.com/news/nike-will-equip-workers-with-clear-masks-to-settle-deaf-customers-suit/594676/>

Nike will equip workers with clear masks to settle deaf customer's suit

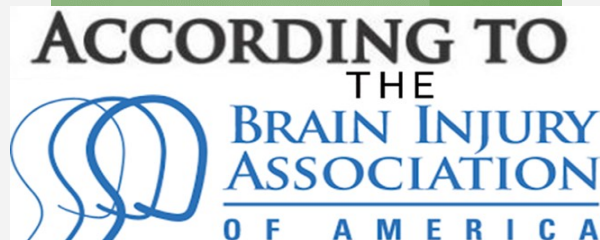


ndi NATIONAL
DISABILITY
INSTITUTE

Economic Recovery and Resilience for People with Disabilities: A 15-Point Agenda for the Biden-Harris Administration

To see the document, go to: <https://www.nationaldisabilityinstitute.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/EconomicRecoveryAndResilienceForPeoplewithDisabilitiesA15-PointAgendaForTheBiden-HarrisAdministration.pdf>

DID YOU KNOW?



An acquired brain injury (ABI) is an injury to the brain that is not hereditary, congenital, degenerative, or induced by birth trauma. Essentially, this type of brain injury is one that has occurred *after* birth. The injury results in a change to the brain's neuronal activity, which affects the physical integrity, metabolic activity, or functional ability of nerve cells in the brain. There are two types of acquired brain injury: traumatic and non-traumatic.

A traumatic brain injury (TBI) is defined as an alteration in brain function, or other evidence of brain pathology, caused by an external force. Traumatic impact injuries can be defined as closed (or non-penetrating) or open (penetrating). Often referred to as an acquired brain injury, a non-traumatic brain injury causes damage to the brain by internal factors, such as a lack of oxygen, exposure to toxins, pressure from a tumor, etc.

5 Essential Facts About Traumatic Brain Injuries

A traumatic brain injury (TBI) is an injury to the brain caused by physical trauma, usually a sudden blow to the head. Traumatic brain injuries occur more frequently than is generally assumed. TBIs can affect the functioning of the brain, and can therefore lead to severe health problems. Here are 5 facts that are essential to know:

- Fact #1:** A concussion does not automatically lead to unconsciousness.
- Fact #2:** TBIs are often referred to as a "Silent Epidemic."
- Fact #3:** Falls are the most common cause of TBIs.
- Fact #4:** Women are at higher risk for TBIs.
- Fact #5:** Ninety percent of TBIs result in some form of visual impairment.

more resources

Brain Injury Professional (BIP) is an official publication of the International Brain Injury Association and North American Brain Injury Society. It is published quarterly by HDI Publishers. To the right is an image of the cover of the September 2020, which is devoted to "Women vs. Brain Injury." To view the issue, go to:

<https://issuu.com/braininjuryprofessional/docs/bip-september-2020/2?ff>

To see the editions published thus far, go to: <http://braininjuryprofessional.com/bip-editions/>.

BRAIN INJURY professional



WOMEN VS. BRAIN INJURY



Who Knew?

I am fairly certain there were many of us who were interested in the inauguration ceremony. We all wanted to hear something that would inspire us or give us hope. When 22-year-old Amanda Gorman stood at the inauguration and read her poem "The Hill We Climb," she inspired the whole world.

It might not have come as a surprise, since she was a recent graduate of Harvard University and herself had been named the first U.S. Youth Poet Laureate in 2017. What came as a surprise to me was what else we learned about her. As a child, she herself had learning disabilities and was diagnosed with an auditory processing disorder in kindergarten, struggling with speech articulation throughout her life. In an interview with CNN, Miss Gorman noted she was unable to pronounce the letter "R" sound until 2 or 3 years before and admitted, "even to this day sometimes I struggle with it, which is difficult when you have a poem in which you say 'rise' like five times." Her performance at the inauguration also held special meaning for the children — and their parents — who also struggle with the same learning and speech challenges Gorman had to overcome to reach that stage.

Who knew? Amanda Gorman did. So did others close to her or knew her. After reciting her poem she gained a much greater audience who also became aware of her disability background. In other words, the whole world. The most inspiring message to me is the courageous example Miss Gorman presented. In her words:

If we're to live up to our own time
Then victory won't lie in the blade
But in all the bridges we've made
That is the promise to glade
The hill we climb
If only we dare.

These could and should be words of inspiration to other people with disabilities. We all know that the ADA's purposes haven't solved everything. But, we also know that change doesn't happen unless we believe and forge ahead.

Hopefully, in unity.

Robert Walters, P&A Staff Attorney



FOR MORE
INFO

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