

Statement from IPWSO's Clinical and Scientific Advisory Board (CSAB) regarding people with PWS and COVID-19 immunisation

The types of vaccines now available against COVID-19 use mRNA technology. This type of vaccine has been under development for many years and, unlike other immunisations, does not place a weak or inactive germ into the body but instead teaches cells in our body to make an immune response that then produces antibodies which provide protection if exposed to COVID-19.

Given the scale of the pandemic with the impact upon lives and long-term health, experts from the US (FDA, CDC) and Europe (MHRA, EMA) have carefully reviewed data from very large clinical studies conducted by the vaccine developers and provided emergency authorization approval to expedite availability to the public. Reported side effects from the vaccines currently available (Pfizer and Moderna) are rare, but their use in those with a history of severe allergies should be discussed with a medical adviser and possibly avoided. Studies are currently underway looking at the safety of the vaccine in children.

IPWSO understands that decisions regarding COVID-19 vaccination will be a personal/family decision but advocates for vaccination, particularly among those people with Prader-Willi syndrome at increased potential risk for COVID complications (i.e., those individuals with severe obesity, sleep apnea, diabetes and cardiovascular disease).

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