

Medical Care During COVID-19: Know Your Rights

Under federal law, you have certain rights if you have a disability. If you get sick or need to go to the hospital, these laws can protect you.

These are your rights:

1. Hospitals and doctors **must help you** just like they would anyone else.
2. The hospital **cannot deny you emergency help** (like a ventilator) just because of your disability.
3. You can **bring a helper** or family member with you to the hospital. But they cannot come with you if they are also sick.
4. You can **ask for what you need** for your disability.
5. You can bring **your service animal** with you.
6. You can **bring what you need** for your disability. You can bring your own wheelchair, ventilator or any other equipment.
7. Doctors and nurses **must talk with you** in a way that you understand:
 - You can get information in simple words if you do not understand.
 - You can get information in another language or have an interpreter.
 - You can have an ASL interpreter or CART.
 - You can get information in Braille, large print, or in a computer file.
 - You can have your communication system if you use AAC.



These are some of **your legal rights** when you are sick or in the hospital. If you need something to help with your disability, **ask for it!**

If you need more information, or have a problem with a doctor or a hospital during COVID-19, contact [Disability Rights North Carolina \(DRNC\)](#) at [\(919\) 856-2195](tel:919-856-2195).