

COVID-19 AND  
PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES SERIES



CASE STUDY

# COVID-19. VACCINATION OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN CHILE

ANALYSIS BASED ON EXPERIENCE OF OBSERVER WITH  
CONGENITAL DISABILITY

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# Acknowledgment

We would like to deeply thank Dr. Antony Duttine, Disability and Rehabilitation Advisor at the Pan American Health Organization / World Health Organization for supporting the development of the publication.

We also thank Dr. Armando Vásquez Berrios for his valuable contributions that enriched our work

And especially to Loreto Brossard, Deputy Executive Director of ONG Inclusiva, without her efforts we would not have been able to make this publication



# Introduction

The scarcity of data on the vaccination of people with disabilities against COVID-19 is worrying, it makes it difficult to evaluate existing public policies and create new policies that guarantee the protection of the lives of people with disabilities.

This observation on the vaccination of people with disabilities against COVID-19, corresponds to the period between March 9 and April 14, 2021, in Peñaflor town, Metropolitan Region of Santiago, Chile. Corresponds to a participating observer methodology.

# Background

My name is Carlos Kaiser, I was born on October 19, 1974, product of a syndrome called Meromelia, I was born with a quadruple amelia, in my case the etiology is unknown.



Picture: Carlos Kaiser. Picture by Loreto Brossard

In my capacity as Executive Director of Inclusiva NGO I have worked since February 2020 warning of the danger that COVID-19 represents for people with disabilities.

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1. from latin A, lack of, and melia, limbs

Since COVID-19 was declared a pandemic, I have written articles, conducted studies, led the first global survey on COVID-19 and disability, participated in government commissions, citizen movements, and cooperated with the United Nations to contribute to local, regional and international efforts. against the pandemic.

## **Persons with disabilities and vaccination in Chile**

In Chile, until April 27, 2021, according to the Ministry of Health, 14,324,489 doses of vaccine against COVID-19 have been administered. Of which, 7,995,746 are people with the first dose and 6,328,743 are vaccinated people who have already completed their two doses.

The target population is 15,200,840 people, where 52.6% of the population has been vaccinated with the first dose and 41.6% of the population has been vaccinated with the second dose..

# People with disabilities in Chile

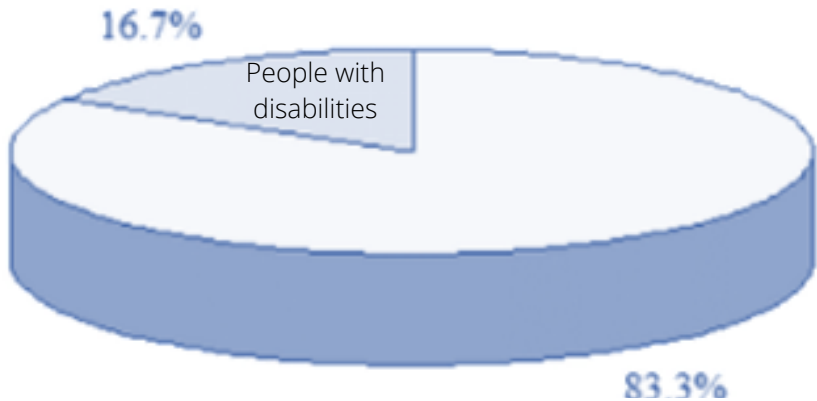
Initially, the Government of Chile defined older adults, chronically ill patients and health officials as priority groups at higher risk.

Since March 8, 2021, the Government of Chile has incorporated adults with severe or profound disabilities between 18 and 59 years old registered in the National Disability Registry (RND) and that reach 89 thousand people. This policy does not contemplate caregivers of people with disabilities, except in the context of the vaccine blossom strategy against sars-cov-2 in caregivers of immunocompromised pediatric patients

The government has mobilized a program for the care of people with severe dependency. 56,494 people with severe dependency have been registered and 75% of them are older people, a group with the highest risk of contracting COVID-19.

The sum of potential people with disabilities to be reached through targeting amounts to 145,494. If we consider that according to the second National Disability Study ENDISC II, there are 2,836,818 people with disabilities, 16.7% of the population, it can be concluded that targeting reaches only 5.1% of the population with disabilities. However, other people with disabilities will access the vaccines, they must do so on the scheduled dates according to their age.





Prevalence of people with disabilities. Source: ENDISC Ily



1 in 20 people with disabilities have been prioritized to be vaccinated against COVID-19

# My vaccination experience as a person with a disability

I was vaccinated on March 9, 2021, at 9:00 a.m. in the vaccination facility set up at the Emilia Lascar School, Peñaflor town, Metropolitan Region, Chile.

To receive the first dose of the SINOVAC vaccine I had to present my certificate from the national disability registry



Picture Credential of the National Disability Registry of Carlos Kaiser.  
Picture by: Loreto Brossard



Picture: collage at the Emilia Lascar School entrance, Peñaflores municipality vaccination center, Chile. Picture by Loreto Brossard

At the entrance to the vaccination center, our temperature was measured and distance was demanded between the people who lined up to enter.

The vaccination center has signage pointing out the safety measures.

The vaccination center has accessibility measures. The entrance is of universal design. Other areas have ramps.



**Picture vaccination center accessibility measures. picture by:  
Loreto Brossard**

The health personnel first attended to people with disabilities and those who had a health problem. My attention was expeditious. The health personnel explained to me clearly the steps they would follow to vaccinate me, the possible side effects and the steps to follow. Health officials use personal protection items.



Picture of personal health protection measures against COVID-19. Picture by: Loreto Brossard

The health personnel refused to vaccinate my caregiver, who is my wife, despite the health risk that such refusal exposed me

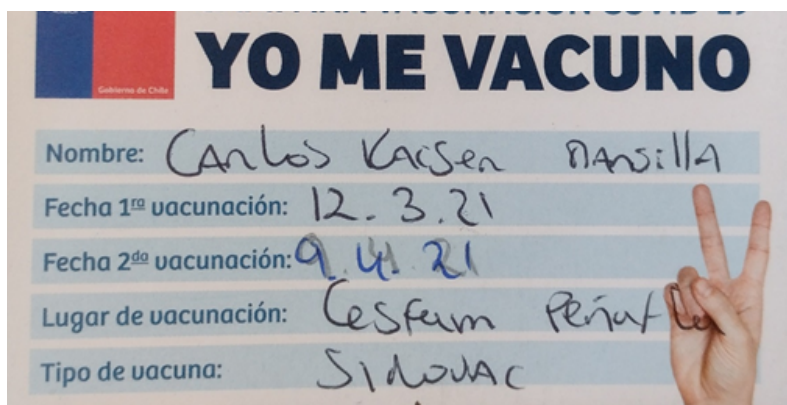
After being vaccinated, I was referred to an observation area for medical attention if necessary. The observation lasted half an hour.



Picture: Observation area after vaccination. Picture by: Loreto Brossard



After receiving each dose, I was given a vaccination campaign card that indicates both dates.



**YO ME VACUNO**

Nombre: Carlos Karsen Darsilla

Fecha 1<sup>ra</sup> vacunación: 12.3.21

Fecha 2<sup>da</sup> vacunación: 9.4.21

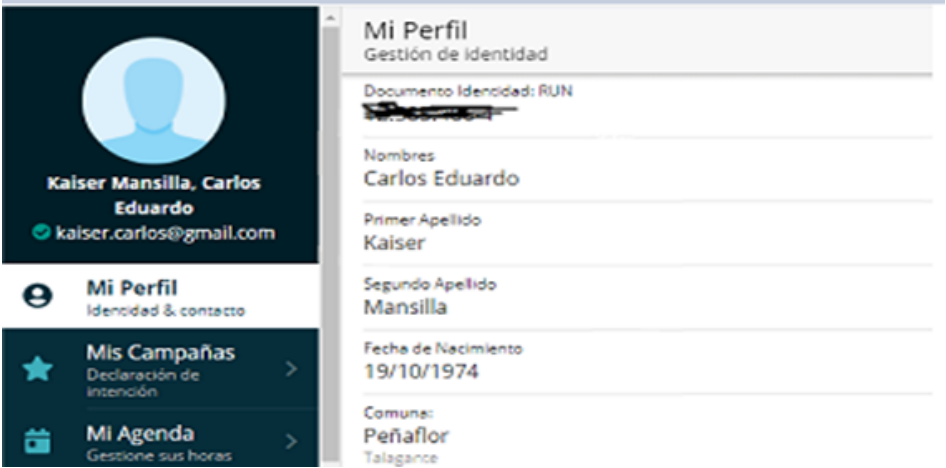
Lugar de vacunación: Cestum Píntula

Tipo de vacuna: Sidalvac

Picture: vaccination campaign card. Picture by: Loreto Brossard

Once vaccinated, I entered the website <https://www.gob.cl/yomevacuno/> where you can find key information about the vaccination campaign.

On the website I registered as a user. The system does not register that I am a person with a disability. It is a relevant data that is lost



Screenshot of user profile Carlos Kaiser

Health monitoring surveys are available on the vaccination campaign website.

# The follow-up survey covers important aspects after vaccination

4/15/2021

México

Encuesta Seguimiento  
Formulario de ESAVI

Cancelar

El Instituto de Salud Pública (ISP) podría requerir complementar la información entregada, en caso de ser así, ¿autoriza que el Instituto de Salud Pública lo contacte? \*

- ☐ Sí
- ☐ No

¿Ha sido diagnosticado con coronavirus COVID-19 en cualquier momento previo a ser vacunado/a? \*

- ☐ Sí
- ☐ No

¿Tiene usted alguna enfermedad diagnosticada? (puede ser más de una) \*

- ☐ Sí
- ☐ No

¿Toma algún medicamento de manera frecuente? (puede ser más de uno) \*

- ☐ Sí
- ☐ No

¿Presentó algún síntoma, malestar o molestia luego de la administración de la vacuna? \*

- ☐ Sí
- ☐ No

Screenshot of health monitoring survey Chilean Ministry of Health

# Conclusions

1. In order to have evidence-based disability-inclusive public health policies in the face of COVID-19, a data registration system must be in place. The data must be protected, used only for the purposes of said public policies, ensuring the dignity of people with disabilities and avoiding acts of arbitrary discrimination.

2. The case of Chile shows concern in focusing efforts to care for people with disabilities, but they are still limited. The sum of potential people with disabilities to be reached through targeting amounts to 145,494. If we consider that according to the second National Disability Study ENDISC II, there are 2,836,818 people with disabilities, it follows that ...

targeting reaches only 5.1% of the population with disabilities. However, other people with disabilities will access the vaccines, they must do so on the scheduled dates according to their age.

3. It is vital to include caregivers and relatives of people with disabilities in vaccination as priority vulnerable groups.

4. The use of schools and other facilities that have received accessibility measures facilitates the vaccination process for people with disabilities. However, my observation is limited to the Peñaflor commune, therefore, I cannot guarantee it is the norm.

5. Global efforts against COVID-19 must comply with the human rights approach, the goals of the Sendai Framework and the Convention on the Human Rights of Persons with Disabilities.



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