



## DHILS BERKSHIRE REGION NEWSLETTER

**LOOK! More people can get the COVID vaccines!**

### COVID-19 Vaccination in MA: Eligibility Status

#### Phase 1

All phase 1 priority groups

Now eligible

#### Phase 2

1 Individuals age 75+

Now eligible

2 Individuals age 65+ and individuals with 2+ certain medical conditions

Now eligible

3 K-12 educators, K-12 school staff, and child care workers

Now eligible

4 Individuals age 60+ and workers in certain sectors (including transit, grocery, utility, food and agriculture, sanitation, public works, and public health workers)

Now eligible

5 Individuals age 55+ and individuals with 1 certain medical condition

Eligible 4/5

#### Phase 3

1 Individuals age 16+

Eligible 4/19

### OUR MISSION

We believe individuals with disabilities and other societal disadvantages are an essential resource for our country's future. Our mission is to help build a world in which individuals with disabilities and other disadvantages realize their full potential.

### OUR VISION

**VIABILITY** will be a positive disruptive force in the marketplace leading the innovative designs of future service delivery for individuals with disabilities and other disadvantages to realize their full potential within their communities of choice.

**You are now eligible for a COVID vaccine if you meet any of these criteria:**

- You are 60 or older
- You are a teacher, childcare worker, or work in a school\*
- You work in one of these areas: transit, grocery, utility, food and agriculture, sanitation, public works, or public health
- You live in low-income and affordable senior housing
- You have two of the health issues below:
  - Cancer
  - Chronic kidney disease
  - COPD
  - Down syndrome
  - Heart condition
  - Immunocompromised
  - Obesity
  - Pregnancy
  - Sickle cell disease
  - Smoking
  - Type 2 diabetes mellitus

\*March 27, April 3, April 10, and April 11 will be reserved for this group at the mass vaccination sites like the Eastfield Mall .

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**ASL VLOG from MCDHH**

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**An Update on Covid-19 Vaccine  
Eligibility in Massachusetts as  
of March 22, 2021**

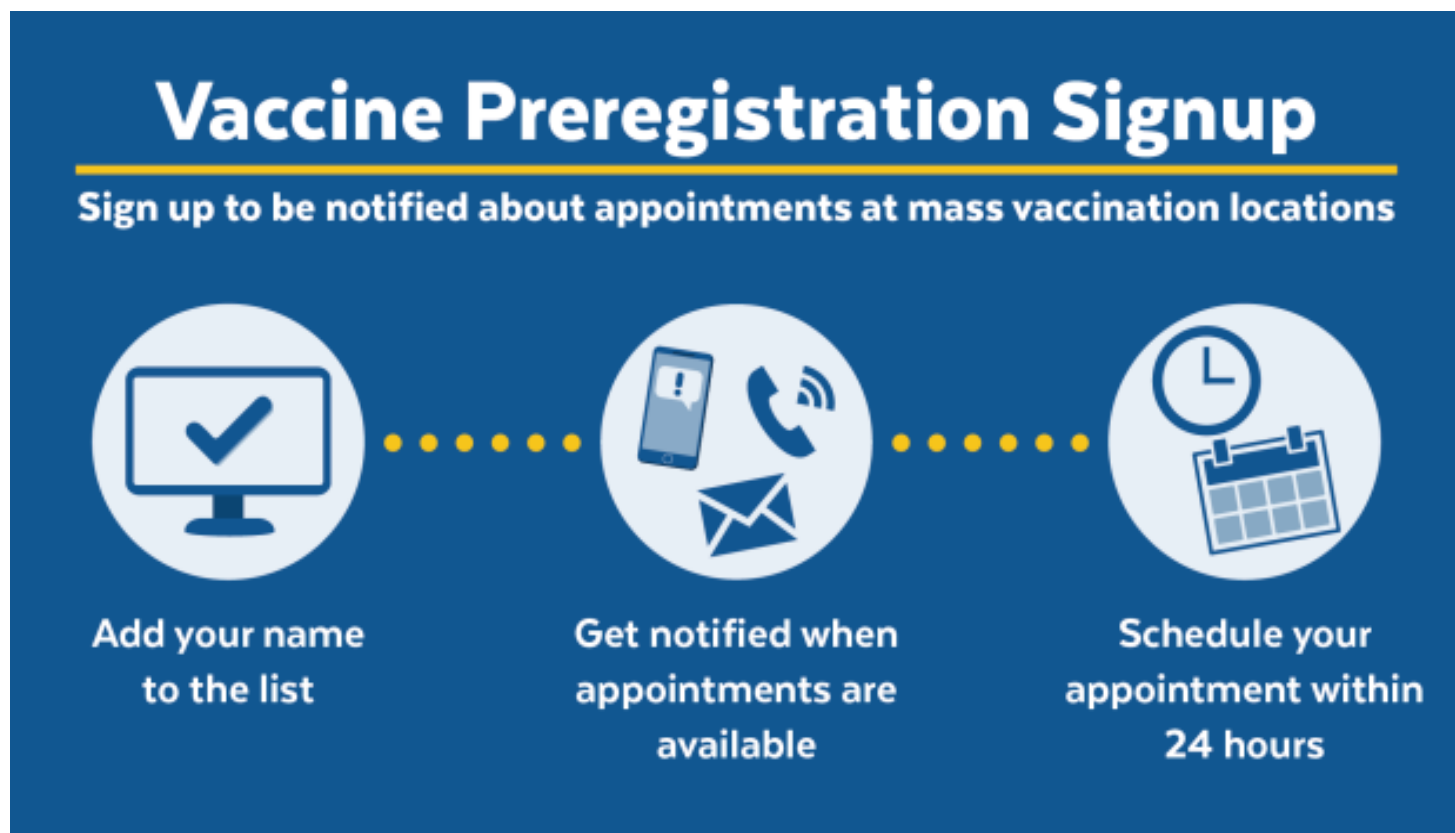
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**David Del Pizzo  
MCDHH Referral Supervisor**

Click here to watch the vlog: <https://bit.ly/3srm9sV>

## TO MAKE A VACCINE APPOINTMENT:

- Go to the pre-registration site: <http://bit.ly/COVIDVaccineApp>
- Enter your information and register.
- Receive an email, text or phone call when an appointment is available.
- Appointments will be based on eligibility and location nearest to you.



**You can still use these two sites:**

<https://www.macovidvaccines.com/>

<https://vaxfinder.mass.gov/>

**Call 2-1-1 if you are age 75 and older, OR if you do not have access to the internet and need help scheduling an appointment.**

Bring an attestation form — you can go to this link:

[bit.ly/MassCovidVaccineForm](http://bit.ly/MassCovidVaccineForm)

and ID and your insurance card if you have them.

You can still get the vaccine even if you don't have an ID or insurance.

**Keep trying if you can't find an appointment!**

## New Travel Advisory for the State of Massachusetts

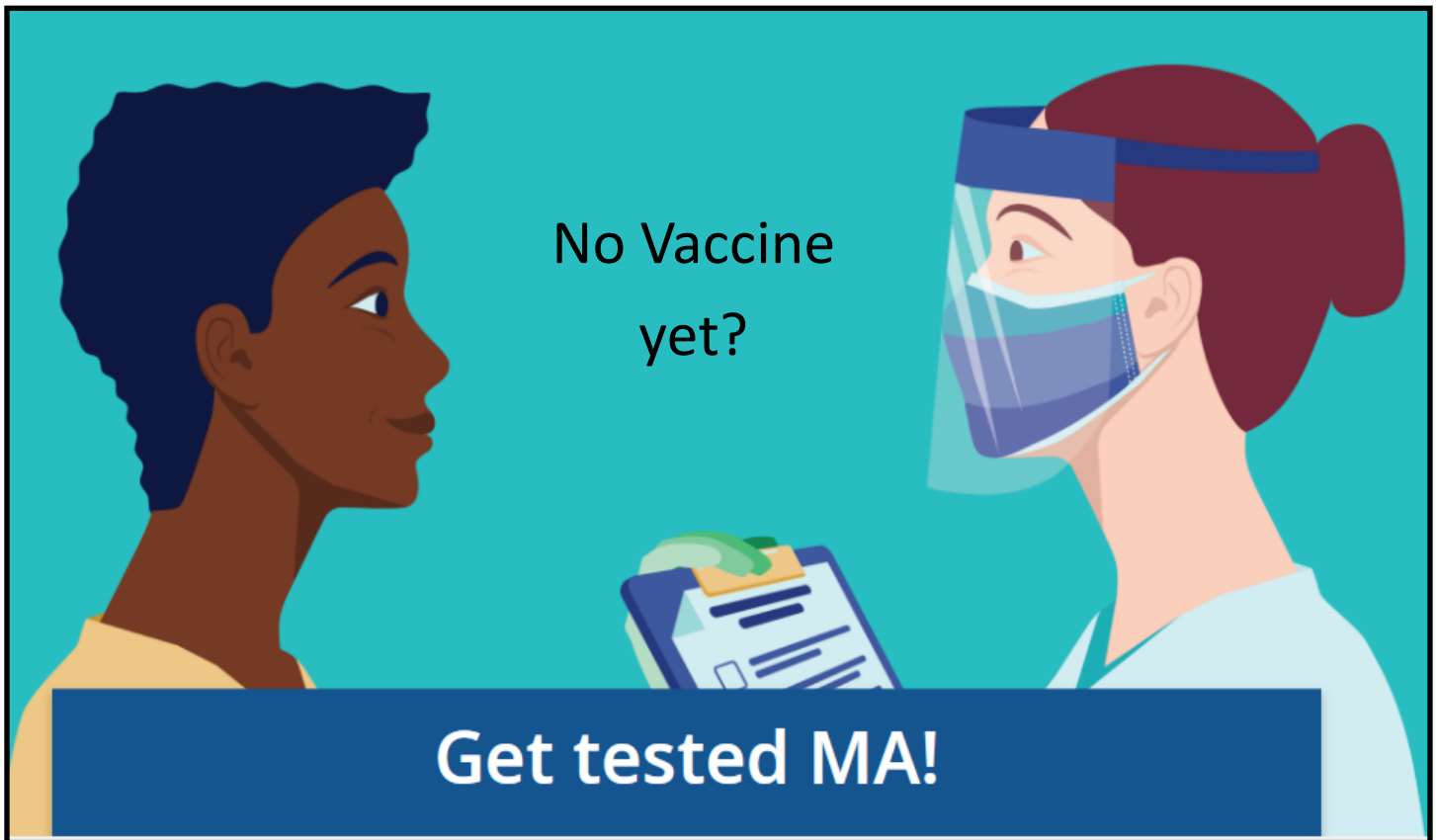
If you travel out of Mass. for more than 24 hours, please quarantine for 10 days when you come back to Mass. No more Travel Order Forms!

You DON'T need to quarantine if:

- You were out of Mass. for less than 24 hours/1 day.
- You had a negative Covid-19 test 3 days before coming back to Mass.
- You are an essential worker going to and from work.
- You are fully vaccinated (2 weeks after the 2nd shot of Moderna or Pfizer or the 1 shot of Johnson & Johnson)

For any questions, go here: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-travel-advisory>

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Who should get tested? You should get a test if: You develop *any* symptoms of COVID-19, even if they are mild **Or** you are a close contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19

Wanted to get tested? Go to <https://www.mass.gov/covid-19-testing>

# spring cleaning & decluttering



## CHECKLIST

4theloveoffoodblog.com



- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> clean out fridge & freezer       | <input type="checkbox"/> clean out bedroom closet            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> clean out pantry                 | <input type="checkbox"/> clean out kids closets              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> organize food storage containers | <input type="checkbox"/> clean out attic                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> sort through movies              | <input type="checkbox"/> clean out garage                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> sort & donate old books          | <input type="checkbox"/> organize mud room & coat closet     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> clean out purse & wallet         | <input type="checkbox"/> dust frames & shelves               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> go through shoes                 | <input type="checkbox"/> dust light fixtures                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> go through jewelry               | <input type="checkbox"/> wash all rugs and mats              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> clean out makeup                 | <input type="checkbox"/> clean under beds & couches          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> clean out medicine cabinet       | <input type="checkbox"/> wash pillows & bedding              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> organize cleaning supplies       | <input type="checkbox"/> wash curtains                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> organize & donate kids toys      | <input type="checkbox"/> wash windows                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> clean ceiling fans               | <input type="checkbox"/> rotate & clean mattresses           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> clean blinds                     | <input type="checkbox"/> clean inside of cars                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> clean baseboards                 | <input type="checkbox"/> de-clutter paper items              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> organize linen closet            | <input type="checkbox"/> disinfect trash cans                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> organize junk drawer             | <input type="checkbox"/> clean outdoor furniture             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> clean out bathroom cabinets      | <input type="checkbox"/> replace A/C filter & clean vents    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> clean out kitchen drawers        | <input type="checkbox"/> clean inside & outside of oven      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> steam clean carpets              | <input type="checkbox"/> organize all dressers & nightstands |



# New 2021 Stimulus Checks!

Have already started arriving!

If you earn under \$75,000 or \$150,000 for a couple:

- You should receive \$1,400 or \$2,800 for a couple
- Plus \$1,400 for each dependent



Want to know where your stimulus money is? Click here:

<https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus/get-my-payment>

Payments can be direct deposit, paper check or a debit card.

## Text-to-911 and Real-Time Text

**Text-to-911 Registry:** a public list of the Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs or 911 call centers) that accept 911 communications through text messages. This list now has 911 call centers that can use *Real-Time Text*.

Find the list here: <https://www.fcc.gov/files/text-911-master-psap-registryxlsx>

Watch a vlog about *Real-Time Text*: <https://www.fcc.gov/real-time-text>



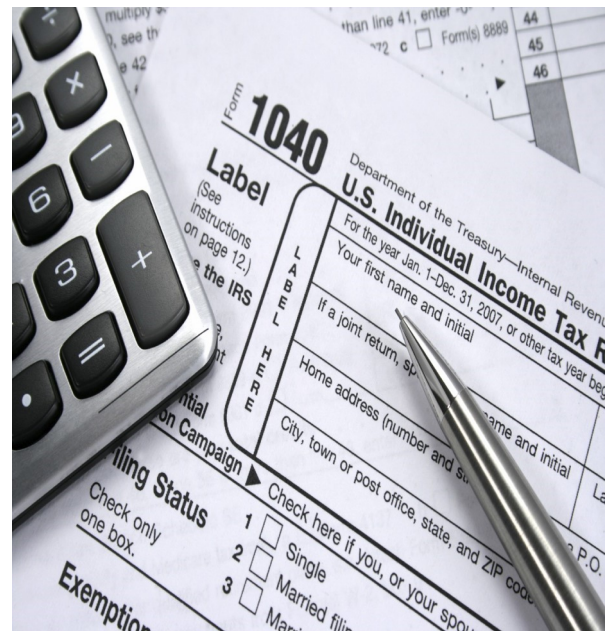
# TAX PREP

We will not host a Tax Day event at our Viability office due to the safety concerns of COVID19. However, we are still connected to our local tax services and we will help you through their new process due to COVID19. Last day to file Taxes extended to May 17th!

If you have come to our previous Tax Day events and you need help filing your tax, **OR** if you are new and need to file your tax, please contact your Viability staff or contact us at [DHILS@viability.org](mailto:DHILS@viability.org)

## What Do You Need to File your Tax?

- Photo I.D. (for each person filing taxes)
- Your Social Security card
- Your spouse's Social Security card (if married)
- Social Security cards for all dependents.
- Proof of Health Insurance (letter)
- Tax Return 2019 if possible.
- 2020 W-2 Forms from all employers you worked for during the past tax year.
- 1099 Misc Forms if you (or your spouse) completed contract work and earned more than \$600.
- Income from local and state tax refunds from the prior year.
- Business income (accounting records for any business that you own)
- Unemployment income
- Rental property income
- Social Security benefits
- Miscellaneous income (including: jury duty, lottery and gambling winnings, Form 1099-MISC for prizes and awards, and Form 1099-MSA for distributions from medical savings accounts)



**Disability Law Center**  
Massachusetts Protection and Advocacy

**zoom Meeting ID: 824 975 2710**  
**Tuesday, March 30, 2021 at 9am**  
**Friday, April 9, 2021 at 11am**  
**Thursday, April 15, 2021 at 2pm**  
**Monday, April 19, 2021 at 3pm**

**dDeafDB COMMUNITY outreach**

For more information, contact LeWana Clark  
drlewanaclark@gmail.com

I've scheduled four ZOOM meetings so we can talk.

<http://bit.ly/NewInfo2>

If you or someone you know would like to talk about being denied an accommodation, join one of the scheduled zoom meeting.



**Essential Cooking Methods Everyone Should Know**  
**Learn cooking terminology and how to apply to real life**

**Presented in ASL by Chi Wai Kwong-Sito, IL Specialist**  
**March 31, 2021 2PM – 3PM**

**Zoom Meeting ID: 918 8838 8357    Passcode: brainfood**

**If you need accommodations, please contact the Front Desk at 617-505-4823 or [frontdesk@deafinonline.org](mailto:frontdesk@deafinonline.org) as soon as possible.**

## Personalized ecards in ASL at [Americangreetings.com](https://www.americangreetings.com)



Marlee Matlin "When You're Smiling" (Personalize)

Choose from 8 different occasions, and let Oscar-winning actress Marlee Matlin and friends take it from there. "When You're Smiling" is sung, and signed in American Sign Language, and calls out YOUR family and friends by name. Personalize by choosing a name and an occasion, and send miles of smiles!



We've gone completely online this year, so our festival is accessible from anywhere. We've got 6 mainstage performances including our special guest from the UK, 6 workshops, 2 panel discussions, 2 staged readings, our annual improv with Rapid Fire Theatre and ... a PARTY!

The festival is fully accessible for both Deaf and hearing audiences, so everyone can participate!

There will be many FREE events available. All our shows are Pay-What-You-Can.

Coming your way, March 31st to April 4th, 2021.

Check it out here: <https://tickets.fringetheatre.ca/>

Our full programming: [www.soundofffestival.com](http://www.soundofffestival.com)

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/soundofffestival>



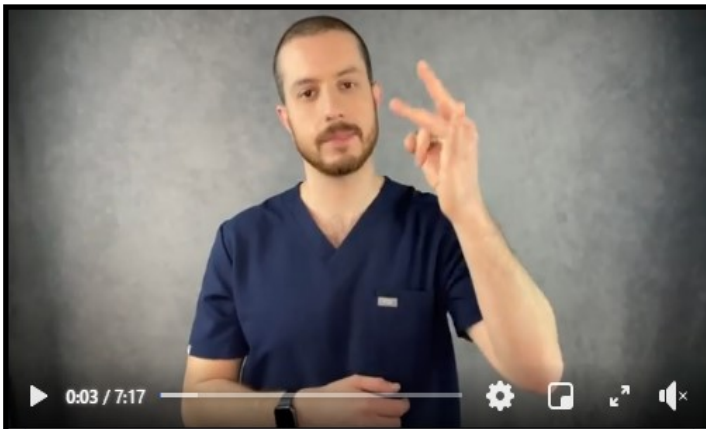
MCDHH strives to provide excellent customer service. One way we do this is by honoring your preferences. Understandably, preferred interpreters or CART providers are not always available, but our referral department always tries our best to meet your needs.

<https://bit.ly/3vYfEQR>



Watch Sean Forbes new video  
I'm so sick of HATE

<https://bit.ly/3rpc1OX>



Deaf in Scrubs

Video describing how the idea of vaccination came about.

<https://bit.ly/2QyM18e>



NTID is partnering with RIT's Global Cybersecurity Institute (GCI) to provide a 15-week online training course in Cybersecurity for 15 non-matriculated Deaf/HH individuals. The online course will be taught in ASL by NTID faculty and is expected to begin on April 19.

<https://bit.ly/3fiFAAw>

# Survivor *Expressions* 2021

APRIL  
29<sup>th</sup>

## VIRTUAL EVENT 6:30-8:00 pm

*Pathways For Change, Inc.* is hosting our 1st Annual *Survivor Expressions* virtual event that will showcase a montage of healing work to inspire *Ending The Silence... Ending Sexual Violence.*

ASL interpreters will be provided.

We believe all survivors & we believe survivors deserve to tell their story!

POETRY PROSE ARTWORK PHOTOGRAPHY SONG MIXED MEDIA



## REGISTER NOW!

[www.eventbrite.com/e/survivor-expressions-tickets](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/survivor-expressions-tickets)

APRIL  
1<sup>st</sup>

## SUBMISSIONS DUE BY:

We're looking for submissions that embrace & showcase empowerment, comfort, strength, healing, empathy, resilience, & self-love.

For more information on how to submit call us: [508-852-7600](tel:508-852-7600)

ASL thru VP for Deaf & Hard of Hearing Individuals: [508-502-7681](tel:508-502-7681)

\* We encourage survivors not to submit anything that reveals any identifying information such as name, location, or any photos of self.

# Celebrating Recovery

APRIL 9–11, 2021



44th Annual Massachusetts Al-Anon/Alateen Convention with AA Participation

**April 9-11, 2021**

**Advanced registration recommended.**

**A virtual weekend of Zoom meetings celebrating recovery:**

- Friday night speakers
- Al-Anon/Alateen and AA speakers and workshops
  - AA Keynote speaker on Saturday afternoon
  - Al-Anon Keynote speaker on Saturday night
- Sunday morning spiritual speakers and workshops

**ASL & CART Services will be provided in ALL\* sessions,  
INCLUDING Alateen!**

More information, workshop topics and registration can be found at:

<https://alanonma.org/afqconvention/>

**\*Alateen sessions, ASL Only**

**AMIAS Sessions CART only in Recertification session.**

**New/Interested AMIAS session ASL and CART.**

CLW's DHILS  
*Invites you to join us on Zoom for*



## TIPS FOR BEING ACTIVE AND HEALTHY EATING



**Date:** Wednesday, April 14, 2021

**Time:** 1:00 pm — 2:30 pm

**Place:** Online via Zoom



### COME LEARN :

- What is "Healthy Eating"?
- What can I do at home to exercise?
- What is "My Plate"?
- *And more!*



**ALL CLW CONSUMERS WHO RSVP AND STAY FOR THE WHOLE PRESENTATION -  
WILL GET A WALMART E-GIFT CARD!**

**Presentation will be in ASL—Don't know ASL but still want to attend?**

*Let us know and we will request an interpreter!*

*For any other Communication Access, please contact us **by April 1st.***

**Please RSVP so we can send you the Zoom link!**



**RSVP BY APRIL 12TH**

Register online here: <https://forms.gle/BnXzGEV9vUAS4Kfz5>

**Questions? Contact Denise Paro**

**508-762-1164 (VP)**

**Email: [dparo@centerlw.org](mailto:dparo@centerlw.org)**



**Massachusetts State Association of the Deaf**  
proudly hosts

# **Virtual ASL Variety Show**



**Come meet our Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and DeafBlind local performers!!!**

Don't miss out opportunity to see their stories.  
Learn about their culture, victories and struggles, and what their identities are.

## **When?**

**Friday, April 23, 2021**

## **Time?**

**8:00 p.m.**

(Performance will begin at 8:30 p.m.)

## **What kind of ASL Variety Show?**

**ASL Poems, Jokes,  
Stories, Artworks and  
many more...**



**MC:**

**Ivy Vélez & Surprise Guest**

**ADMISSION: FREE!!!  
Everyone is welcome!!!**

**MSAD ZOOM LINK**

**Meeting ID: 458 765 5196**

**Passcode: MSAD**



## You are warmly invited to...

### THE MEN'S STORY PROJECT: SURVIVORS' HEALING JOURNEYS

1 in 6 men experience sexual victimization in their lifetime. That's 29,000,000 men in the United States alone. The statistics are astounding, but there are stories behind the statistics.

Through authentic and dynamic storytelling, these live virtual events will bring together the courage and vulnerability of twelve male sexual victimization survivors from across the United States as they share their personal journeys of healing, in their own words, during this powerful dialogue series.

Each of these events, featuring six of the Survivors' Healing Journeys presentations, will be **LIVE** and available for **FREE** via Zoom. Pre-registration is required and attendance to multiple events will be available. ASL interpretation will be provided.

The stories will be followed by an audience-presenter dialogue.

#### GROUP 1



#### GROUP 2



## dates | times

Sunday, March 21, 2021

1:00 PM - 3:15 PM (PT)

4:00 PM - 6:15 PM (ET)

**GROUP 1**

Wednesday, March 24, 2021

4:00 PM - 6:15 PM (PT)

7:00 PM - 9:15 PM (ET)

**GROUP 2**

Tuesday, March 30, 2021

4:00 PM - 6:15 PM (PT)

7:00 PM - 9:15 PM (ET)

**GROUP 2 (encore)**

Thursday, April 01, 2021

4:00 PM - 6:15 PM (PT)

7:00 PM - 9:15 PM (ET)

**GROUP 1 (encore)**

## REGISTER NOW!

[menhealing.net/page-18183](https://menhealing.net/page-18183)



# DEAF IN GOVERNMENT



## THE POWER OF YOU DIG CONFERENCE & EXPO

June 3, 2021

Register Now

<https://dig.video.rivetlogic.com>

MORE INFORMATION AT  
[EXPO.DEAFINGOV.ORG](https://expo.deafingov.org)



This is a virtual conference with workshops, presentations, and booths. It will offer:

**Technology and Accessibility Innovation:** Demonstrations of current technologies that can be used for collaborations, delivery, and accessibility.

**Career Development Opportunities:** Career advancement, networking, and job opportunities for Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and Deaf-Blind job seekers.

**Community Engagement:** to build a bridge in collaboration with companies, and organizations for attendees.



# 2021 Youth Leadership Forum



YLF is a free conference for Massachusetts youth & young adults with all types of disabilities. Participants build leadership skills and learn about employment, advocacy, assistive technology, and independent living. YLF 2021 will take place virtually!

**What:** Leadership Conference

**Who:** Youth/young adults with disabilities, ages 16-25

**When:** June 14-28, 2021  
(late afternoons/evenings)

**Where:** Online via webinar

**Deadline:** *April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021 and ongoing based on space availability. **Please Apply ASAP!***

## What topics are covered?

- Employment skills
- Advocacy
- Disability pride
- Career Mentoring
- Independent living
- Disability services

*Accommodations available.*

To learn more, visit **[www.PYD.org](http://www.PYD.org)**  
or contact Susan Nicastro, YLF Director, at  
(617) 556-4075 x113 or **[ylf@pyd.org](mailto:ylf@pyd.org)**

**To apply, visit:**

**<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YLFApplication2021>**

# Summer Youth WEBINARS 2021

Meet us online and explore a world of possibilities!

**Session 1**  
June 21 - 25

**Session 2**  
June 28 - July 2

**Session 3**  
July 6 - 9



## Got Skills? Online Only!

Session 1 · Middle School only  
*Design your own webinar experience!*

## Immerse into ASL

Session 1 · High School only  
*Learn the rich language and culture!*



## Deaf Youth Pride

Session 2 · High School only  
*Explore and embrace your identity!*

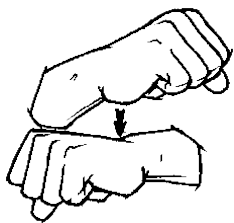
## Summer Spotlight Series

Sessions 2 and 3 · Middle School and High School  
*Explore various topics through faculty-led activities!*

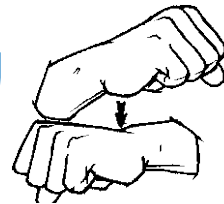


## DeafBiz

Session 3 · High School only  
*Find your passion and pursue it!*



# Job Position Opening!



Great news!



**We are hiring in the Viability DHILS program!**

**A full-time position with excellent benefits including paid time off, mileage, and more!**

Are you a motivated team player with great energy and fluent in American Sign Language? Do you have a passion working with Deaf and Hard of Hearing individuals to improve the quality of their independent lives? If yes, we highly recommend you apply for our available position at Viability!

This **Program Supervisor position** will supervise the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Independent Living Services (DHILS) staff and provide direct support to Deaf/Hard of Hearing/Late-Deafened individuals in the Holyoke and Pittsfield offices.

Apply for the Program Supervisor,  
Full-Time - ASL required using the link below:

<http://bit.ly/DHILSProgramSupervisor>

This **Community Support Coordinator position** provides direct outreach services to individuals who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing to enable them to achieve greater independence. Must be fluent in ASL. Apply for the Community Support Coordinator,

Full-Time - ASL required using the link below:

<http://bit.ly/CommSupportCoordinator>

**Total Rewards = Competitive Pay + Excellent Benefits + Meaningful Work**

Medical Plan, Dental Plan, Vision Plan, Health Savings Account,  
Health Care Reimbursement Accounts, Dependent Care Reimbursement Accounts,  
Company-paid short-term and long-term disability insurance, Company-paid life and AD&D insurance, Generous Paid Time Off, and many more!

Need a MASK?

We have homemade masks with a clear section for better Deaf and Hard of Hearing communication.

Please contact your DHILS Staff if you need one.  
Comfortable and easy to use.  
**We still have some available!**



## Community ASL Class Online

**COME LEARN SIGN LANGUAGE FOR FREE!**

**When:** Every Thursday

**Time:** 4:30 pm to 5:30 pm

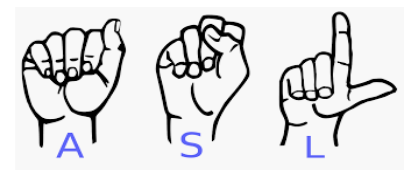
**How?** Meet through Zoom.

**Interested? Questions?**

Please contact Anthony if you want to join.

Anthony @ 413-650-5386 or  
arusso@viability.org

Tell us if you want a different time?



Download Zoom  
[www.zoom.us](http://www.zoom.us)



# COVID-19 Screening and Appointment Rules

Before we can see you in person for an **ESSENTIAL (VERY IMPORTANT)** appointment, we have to ask you some questions every time we meet in person: at the office or at your home.

**Question 1:** Have you been diagnosed with COVID-19 within the past 14 days? **YES/NO**

**Question 2:** Has anyone in your household been diagnosed with COVID - 19 within the past 14 days? **YES/NO**

**Question 3:** Have you had a fever over 100 degrees, chills, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headache within the past 72 hours? **YES/NO**

**Question 4:** Have you or anyone in your household had the following: cough, shortness of breath, fatigue, abdominal pain, new muscle aches, headache, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell, nausea, vomiting or diarrhea within the past 72 hours? **YES/NO**

**Question 5:** Have you or anyone in your household traveled to any hot spots within the last 14 days where areas where a large number of COVID-19 cases have been confirmed?  
**YES/NO**

If you answered **NO** to all, then we can meet in person  
**BY APPOINTMENT ONLY.**

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## Confirmed Appointment: Now What?

We **MUST** do this when we meet in person at your home OR at office:

Maintain 6 ft at all times 	Wash or sanitize your hands upon entry and exit of the building 
Wear a face mask or covering when speaking with people face-to-face, in the same room  	Sanitize or wash your hands frequently while on-site 
Only come at times agreed upon by you and staff and come by yourself. Do not bring people with you. 	Sanitize all surfaces that you utilize while on-site, including furniture, equipment, writing utensils 