

COVID Accessibility: Lessons Learned

May 8, 2023

Hi everyone. I wanted to have a lessons learned discussion about how an unintentional consequence of COVID has been increased accessibility within the community.

I do have a few questions for us, to help prompt this discussion.

The first question is: What barriers do people with physical disabilities face in their daily living in the community? (i.e. going to work, picking up groceries, etc.)

The next question is: How have COVID procedures helped remove these barriers for people with physical disabilities?

A personal concern I have with the National State of Emergency ending is there has been urgency in society to “get back to normal.”

Like, on an airline flight, the captain announced how masks were no longer required on airlines and almost everyone removed their masks without hesitation, probably partially because of the push to get back to normalcy.

My concern is this push to go back to the way society once was will unintentionally roll back the changes that made the community more accessible.

Has anyone noticed service provision changes either continuing or ceasing within the community?

I honestly think that the accessibility changes would be rolled back, not because of opposition to accessibility, but because a lot of people without disabilities are not aware of the fact that accessibility has improved.

My final question is: Does anyone have any ideas how the board could spread awareness to local businesses, service providers, and others about these accessibility improvements – so hopefully the accessibility will not be rolled back?