

## **Three Ways the COVID-19 Pandemic Could Change Disability Policies And Practices.**

How will our world change after the pandemic? Will our World go completely back to normal and try to forget all of this ever happened, the way so many citizens did after the 1918 Influenza Pandemic? Or, will we go a bit further and make bigger reforms we once thought impossible?

### **1. Working online, “from home.”**

Disabled people lose jobs because they aren't allowed the option to work from home, or even apply. Disabled students are forced to drop out of college because professors and administrators won't be flexible about on-site attendance when disabilities appears.

Not all disabled people want to work from home. Some of us have jobs that can't be transferred home. Many disabled people lack adequate devices and internet connections. And many of us prefer to work and learn outside of our homes, side by side with our friends and coworkers, and face to face with customers.

### **2. A new way of congregate care.**

Hospitals and Nursing Homes full of medically vulnerable people, cared for by a high density of staff, are breeding grounds for illness, especially during serious outbreaks.

### **3. More attention to disability problems.**

The pandemic has generated some new attention to disabled people's difficulties, but not yet on what we actually need to be done. Once again we see the usual gap between sympathy for disabled people, and caring about disability issues. The pandemic has provided some promising openings. But it could in the end just as easily slam the door.