



Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

Information for Healthcare Professionals: COVID-19 and Underlying Conditions

Patients at higher risk for infection, severe illness, and poorer outcomes from COVID-19 should protect themselves. [Guidance for patients](#) includes:

- Take [steps](#) to protect yourself.
- **Call** your healthcare provider if you are sick with a fever, cough, or shortness of breath.
- Follow CDC travel guidelines and the recommendations of your state and local health officials.

High-Risk Conditions

COVID-19 is a new disease and there is limited information regarding risk factors for severe disease. Based on currently available information and clinical expertise, **older adults** and **people of any age who have serious underlying medical conditions** might be at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19.

Based upon available information to date, those at high-risk for severe illness from COVID-19 include:

- [People 65 years and older](#)
- People who live in a nursing home or long-term care facility

People of all ages with underlying medical conditions, particularly if not well controlled, including

- People with chronic lung disease or moderate to severe asthma
- People who have serious heart conditions
- People who are immunocompromised
 - Many conditions can cause a person to be immunocompromised, including cancer treatment, smoking, bone marrow or organ transplantation, immune deficiencies, poorly controlled HIV or AIDS, and prolonged use of corticosteroids and other immune weakening medications.
- People with severe obesity (body mass index [BMI] of 40 or higher)
- People with diabetes
- People with chronic kidney disease undergoing dialysis
- People with liver disease

Page last reviewed: April 6, 2020