

Risk Factors for Severe Illness Caused by COVID-19 Infection

In addition to older adults, groups identified by the CDC as being at greater risk of becoming severely ill if infected with COVID-19 include persons with:

- Cancer
- Chronic kidney disease
- Chronic lung diseases, including COPD (Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease), moderate to severe asthma, interstitial lung disease, cystic fibrosis, and pulmonary hypertension
- Dementia or other neurological conditions
- Diabetes (Type 1 or Type 2)
- Down syndrome
- Heart conditions such as heart failure, coronary artery disease, cardiomyopathies, or hypertension
- HIV infection
- Immunocompromised state (weakened immune system) due to a genetically inherited condition or prolonged use of corticosteroids or other medications that weaken the immune system
- Liver disease
- Overweight and obesity (body mass index of 25kg/m² or higher) – risk increases sharply with BMI
- Pregnancy (current or recent)
- Severe obesity (body mass index greater than or equal to 40kg/m²)
- Sickle cell disease or thalassemia
- Smoking
- Solid organ or blood stem cell transplant (including bone marrow transplants)
- Stroke or cerebrovascular disease
- Substance use disorders

For more information: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-with-medical-conditions.html>