What is COVID-19?

COVID-19 is caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus, a type of coronavirus. It is highly contagious and spread primarily through respiratory droplets when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or speaks. People are at risk of becoming seriously ill or dying if they are older than 65 years or have underlying medical conditions.

COVID-19 and Pre-existing Medical Conditions

If you have one or more of the above medical conditions (risk factors) and you get COVID-19, you are more likely to:

- Become seriously ill or die regardless of their age.
- Become seriously ill or die regardless of their age.

COVID-19 and Chronic Lung Diseases

Chronic lung diseases can include:

- Emphysema
- Acute respiratory distress syndrome
- Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)
- Chronic bronchitis
- Idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis
- Asthma
- Pulmonary hypertension

The likelihood of having a chronic lung disease increases with age. The higher your age, the more likely you are to have a chronic lung disease.

Symptoms and Testing

If you have pre-existing medical conditions or are at high risk of becoming seriously ill from COVID-19, it is important to get tested.

What to do if you test positive?

If your test result is positive for COVID-19,

- You must self-isolate for at least 10 days from the date of your first symptom and until 24 hours after your fever subsides without the use of fever-reducing medication.

References

- Chronic respiratory disease. World Health Organization. Retrieved May 23, 2022, from
- World Health Organization. (n.d.). Retrieved May 21, 2022, from

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