What is COVID-19?

Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is an infectious disease caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus. It was first identified in late 2019, and since then, it has spread globally, causing ongoing outbreaks. COVID-19 is characterized by symptoms such as fever, cough, fatigue, and difficulty breathing. In severe cases, it can lead to hospitalization and death.

COVID-19 and Pre-existing Medical Conditions

People with certain medical conditions are at higher risk for more severe COVID-19. These conditions include:

- Diabetes
- Heart disease
- Chronic lung disease
- Obesity
- High blood pressure
- Blood or spleen disorders
- Certain cancers
- Immunosuppressive conditions

COVID-19 and Type 1 or Type 2 Diabetes

If you have either Type 1 or Type 2 diabetes, you are more likely to develop severe COVID-19 symptoms. This is because diabetes can weaken your immune system, making it harder for your body to fight off infections.

Symptoms of COVID-19

Symptoms of COVID-19 can vary from mild to severe. They may include:

- Fever
- Cough
- Difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Loss of taste or smell

If you have been exposed to the virus that causes COVID-19, you are more likely to:

- Have fever
- Have cough
- Have difficulty breathing
- Have fatigue
- Have muscle or body aches
- Have loss of taste or smell

What to do if you test positive?

If your test result is positive for COVID-19, you should:

- Isolate from others immediately
- Call your healthcare provider as soon as possible
- Follow your healthcare provider’s instructions

The risk of death from COVID-19 increases with the number of underlying medical conditions you have.5,7