COVID-19 and Pre-existing Medical Conditions

People with certain medical conditions are at higher risk of becoming seriously ill or dying from COVID-19.

- Cancer
- Cardiovascular (heart) disease
- Chronic kidney disease
- Diabetes
- Lung disease or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
- Liver disease
- Obesity (body mass index of 30 or higher)
- Neurological or neurodevelopmental conditions
- Schizophrenia and other serious mental health conditions
- End-stage renal disease
- Transplant recipients
- Liver transplant recipients
- People with a weakened immune system due to underlying medical conditions or medications

Risk factors for severe illness and death from COVID-19 are not limited to these conditions. Anyone can get sick from COVID-19, and becoming seriously ill or dying is possible for any age group.

Symptoms and Testing

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

- Have fever
- Have cough
- Have shortness of breath

Testing for COVID-19 is recommended for anyone who has symptoms and for people in close contact with someone who has tested positive.

What to do if you test positive?

- Isolate from others
- Get medical care
- Help prevent spread

What is COVID-19?

A new disease caused by a virus called SARS-CoV-2. The virus spreads primarily through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes. It is highly contagious and can spread quickly.

People with certain medical conditions are at higher risk of becoming seriously ill or dying from COVID-19. The risk of death from COVID-19 increases with the number of underlying medical conditions a person may have due to other infections, such as the flu.

What to do if you test positive?

- Isolate from others
- Get medical care
- Help prevent spread


Learning Disabilities
- Cerebral palsy (a group of disorders or problems in the brain that can make it hard to move and control body movements)
- Congenital malformations (birth defects)
- Intellectual disability (mental disability)
- Neuromuscular dysfunction
- Speech and language impairments