What is COVID-19?

COVID-19 is a respiratory illness caused by a virus called SARS-CoV-2. It can cause mild to severe illness. Symptoms of COVID-19 can include:

- Fever
- Cough
- Difficulty breathing
- Chills
- Muscle or body aches
- New loss of taste or smell
- Fatigue
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

Anyone can get sick from COVID-19 and become seriously ill. This list is not exhaustive.

COVID-19 and Pre-existing Medical Conditions

You are more likely to develop serious illness from COVID-19 if you are older and have a pre-existing medical condition. Examples of pre-existing medical conditions that increase your risk include:

- Chronic lung disease such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)
- Heart disease
- Liver or kidney disease
- Diabetes
- Cancer
- Immune disorders

COVID-19 and Obesity

Being obese increases your risk of developing severe illness from COVID-19. This may be due to obesity decreasing your lung capacity and reserve, making it more difficult to breathe when infected with the virus.

Symptoms and Testing

If you have flu-like symptoms, it may be COVID-19 and not the flu. Get tested for COVID-19 as soon as possible if you have flu-like symptoms.

What to do if you test positive?

If you test positive for COVID-19, you are more likely to:

- Develop serious illness
- Be admitted to an intensive care unit
- Require medical treatment

You will likely recover without requiring special attention. This list is not exhaustive.