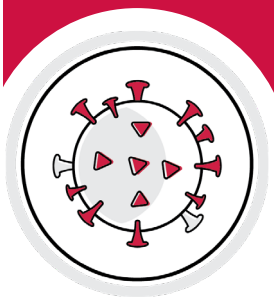
COVID-19 RISK

Who is at increased risk for severe illness?

Everyone is at risk for getting COVID-19 if they are exposed to the virus. Some people are more likely than others to become severely ill, which means that they may require hospitalization, intensive care, or a ventilator to help them breathe, or they may even die. We learn more about COVID-19 every day, and as more information becomes available, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) will continue to update and share information about risk for severe illness. For the latest information, visit www.cdc.gov.



Older Adults

In general, your risk of getting severely ill from COVID-19 increases as you get older. In fact, 8 out of 10 COVID-19-related deaths reported in the United States have been among adults aged 65 years and older. **The greatest risk for severe illness from COVID-19 is among those aged 85 or older.**

People with Underlying Medical Conditions

The CDC states people of any age with the following conditions are at increased risk of severe illness from COVID-19:

- Cancer
- Chronic kidney disease
- COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease)
- Immunocompromised state (weakened immune system) from solid organ transplant
- Obesity (body mass index [BMI] of 30 or higher)
- Serious heart conditions, such as heart failure, coronary artery disease, or cardiomyopathies
- Sickle cell disease
- Type 2 diabetes mellitus

In addition to the people in the group above, the Wisconsin ADRC considers people in the following groups also at increased risk of severe illness from COVID-19:

- People from underrepresented groups, including African Americans and American Indians
- People with Alzheimer's disease dementia
- People with dementia not due to Alzheimer's disease
- People who have impaired memories not due to Mild Cognitive Impairment (MCI)

Based on what we know at this time, people with the following conditions might be at an increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19:

- Asthma (moderate-to-severe)
- Cerebrovascular disease (affects blood vessels and blood supply to the brain)
- Cystic fibrosis
- Hypertension or high blood pressure
- Immunocompromised state (weakened immune system) from blood or bone marrow transplant, immune deficiencies, HIV, use of corticosteroids, or use of other immune weakening medicines
- Neurological conditions, such as dementia or Parkinson's disease
- Liver disease
- Pregnancy
- Pulmonary fibrosis (having damaged or scarred lung tissues)
- Smoking
- Thalassemia (a type of blood disorder)
- Type 1 diabetes mellitus

Wisconsin Alzheimer's Disease Research Center
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