

# Know Your Risk for Getting Very Sick From COVID



**People who get very sick from COVID may need hospital care. They can even die.**

Staying up to date with your COVID vaccine is the best way to protect yourself from getting very sick from COVID.

Some people are more likely than others to get very sick from COVID—even if vaccinated.

## Factors that make people more likely to get very sick from COVID

### Older age

Risk for severe illness from COVID increases with age, especially for people 50 and older.

### Compromised or weakened immune system

Either due to a medical condition or medication that weakens the immune system, such as chemotherapy or corticosteroids.

### Certain health issues

Certain health issues increase your risk more than others. And the more you have, the higher your risk. Common health issues that increase your risk include:

- Heart conditions
- Diabetes
- Asthma and other lung conditions
- Cancer
- Conditions of the kidneys or liver
- Being overweight or obese



**These aren't all the health issues linked to an increased risk of severe illness from COVID. Talk to your doctor or health care provider about your health issues to understand your risk.**

## FDA-authorized or -approved treatment is available to help prevent severe illness

If you're more likely to get very sick, you need to start medical treatment for COVID right away after symptoms first appear.

**Don't wait.** It's important to get tested quickly if you have symptoms of COVID. Prescription treatments need to be started within days of when symptoms start.

Even if your symptoms are mild, treating your COVID early with medicine prescribed by a doctor or other authorized health care provider can make your infection less severe and help keep you out of the hospital. It could save your life.

**Talk to your doctor or health care provider about your risk for getting very sick from COVID.**

**Learn more at [cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)**