

What is considered an underlying medical condition for severe COVID-19?

Adults of any age with certain underlying medical conditions are at increased risk for severe illness from the virus that causes COVID-19 and may influence what priority group you fall under regarding COVID-19 vaccine. It is important to note that the underlying medical conditions listed below are not an exhaustive list and only include conditions with sufficient evidence to draw conclusions. **Individuals with any underlying medical conditions (including those NOT on the list below) should consult with their healthcare provider about their own personal risk factors associated with illness from COVID-19.**

Underlying medical conditions that put you at increased risk for potential severe and life-threatening outcomes from COVID-19 infection:

- Cancer
- Chronic lung disease, including COPD
- Serious heart conditions - e.g. heart failure, coronary artery disease or cardiomyopathies (also known as heart muscle disease)
- Obesity with a body mass index (BMI) of 30 or more
- Type 2 diabetes
- Chronic kidney disease
- Conditions that cause you to be immunocompromised - e.g. HIV infection or those with weakened immune systems due to other illnesses or medication
- Sickle cell disease
- Pregnancy
- Smoking
- Down Syndrome

Underlying medical conditions that might put you at increased risk for potential severe and life-threatening outcomes from COVID-19 infection:

- Asthma (moderate to severe)
- Cerebrovascular disease (affects blood vessels and blood supply to the brain)
- Cystic fibrosis
- Hypertension (high blood pressure)
- Neurologic conditions, such as dementia
- Liver disease
- Overweight (BMI of 26-29)
- Pulmonary fibrosis (having damaged or scarred lung tissue)
- Thalassemia (a type of blood disorder)
- Type 1 diabetes

It is important that individuals have a conversation with their provider regarding which priority group they fall under. Just because a condition is not listed above, *does not mean it does not put you at higher risk for severe outcomes from COVID-19 infection.* Each situation is unique and should be decided on a case-by-case basis between a patient and their healthcare provider.

Want more information on underlying medical conditions?

Check out the CDC website at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-with-medical-conditions.html>

Want to find COVID-19 vaccine in your area?

Check out the North Dakota Vaccine Locator at: <https://www.health.nd.gov/covidvaccinelocator>