

# AM I AT RISK?

MANY PEOPLE WHO ARE AT  
HIGH RISK FOR DEVELOPING  
**SEVERE COVID-19**  
DON'T KNOW THEIR RISK.

## COVID-19 MAY STILL BE A THREAT TO YOUR HEALTH

Despite the success of vaccines in reducing severe illness and declining numbers of infections in many areas, COVID-19 remains a threat and **some people are more vulnerable to severe illness from the virus.**

There are treatment options available that can help reduce the severity of symptoms and the risk of hospitalization and death among people who are at high risk for severe COVID-19. Unfortunately, many of those who need COVID-19 treatments don't know treatments are an option and aren't getting them.

## AM I AT RISK FOR DEVELOPING SEVERE COVID-19?

**Age is the biggest risk factor for severe COVID-19** and those 50 or over are considered to be at high risk of severe COVID-19. You are also at greater risk of severe COVID-19 if you have certain health conditions or are impacted by social factors, including:

- Asthma
- Lung disease
- Smoking
- Cancer
- Kidney disease
- (current and former)
- Diabetes
- Obesity
- Substance use disorders
- Disabilities
- Mental health conditions
- Heart conditions

Many vulnerable communities may also be at greater risk of severe COVID-19 and are less likely to receive treatment. According to the CDC, people from racial and ethnic minority groups could be nearly **twice as likely** to face serious complications from COVID-19.

**It is important to know if you have one or more risk factors for severe COVID-19 and to be prepared to start treatment within days of getting COVID-19.**

**Being up-to-date on your vaccine reduces the risk of developing severe COVID-19.**

## SAFE AND EFFECTIVE TREATMENT OPTIONS ARE AVAILABLE TO FIGHT COVID-19

- If you have COVID-19 symptoms, contact your healthcare provider today to learn about treatment options, including **antivirals** – pills and IV treatments that can help prevent more serious impacts of COVID-19, such as hospitalization or death.<sup>1</sup>
- Keep a list of all medications that you are currently taking to share with your healthcare provider to help determine the best treatment option for you.
- Antivirals are authorized and/or approved by the FDA for use by those most at risk of progression to severe COVID-19.
- Antiviral treatments for COVID-19 must start within five to seven days after onset of symptoms to be effective.<sup>2</sup>

**By mid-December 2023, both oral antiviral treatments will transition from U.S. government distribution to the commercial market and traditional health care coverage. Cost and coverage will vary depending on the drug and there will be patient assistance programs, co-pay programs, and other plans to ensure COVID-19 treatments will continue to be available to uninsured and underinsured individuals.**

<sup>1</sup>National Institutes of Health. "Antivirals, Including Antibody Products." Reviewed May 11, 2013. <https://www.covid19treatmentguidelines.nih.gov/therapies/antivirals-including-antibody-products/>

<sup>2</sup>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. "People with Certain Medical Conditions." Reviewed May 11, 2023. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-with-medical-conditions.html>



Scan to learn more about risk factors for severe COVID-19 and what to do if you have symptoms, or visit [covidvaccineproject.org/treatments](https://covidvaccineproject.org/treatments).

**COVID-19 VACCINE  
EDUCATION and  
EQUITY PROJECT**