

Stay safe together while staying two metres apart

Dr Shane Farrelly MFOM Occupational Health Specialist

COVID-19 and Clarification of Vulnerable Group

Based on currently available information and clinical expertise, **older adults and people of any age who have serious underlying medical conditions** might be at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19.

Based on what we know now, those at high-risk for severe illness from COVID-19 are:

- [People 65 years and older](#)
- People who live in a nursing home or long-term care facility

People of all ages with [underlying medical conditions, particularly if not well controlled](#), including:

- People with chronic lung disease or moderate to severe asthma
- People who have serious heart conditions
- People who are immunocompromised
 - Many conditions can cause a person to be immunocompromised, including cancer treatment, smoking, bone marrow or organ transplantation, immune deficiencies, poorly controlled HIV or AIDS, and prolonged use of corticosteroids and other immune weakening medications
- People with severe obesity (body mass index [BMI] of 40 or higher)
- People with diabetes
- People with chronic kidney disease undergoing dialysis
- People with liver disease
- People who are pregnant

People falling into the extremely vulnerable group include:

- Solid organ transplant recipients
- People with specific cancers:

- People with cancer who are undergoing active chemotherapy or radical radiotherapy for lung cancer

- People with cancers of the blood or bone marrow such as leukaemia, lymphoma or myeloma who are at any stage of treatment

- People having immunotherapy or other continuing antibody treatments for cancer

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- People having other targeted cancer treatments which can affect the immune system, such as protein kinase inhibitors or PARP inhibitors

 - People who have had bone marrow or stem cell transplants in the last 6 months, or who are still taking immunosuppression drugs
 - People with severe respiratory conditions including all cystic fibrosis, severe asthma and severe COPD.
 - People with rare diseases and inborn errors of metabolism that significantly increase the risk of infections (such as SCID, homozygous sickle cell).
 - People on immunosuppression therapies sufficient to significantly increase risk of infection.
 - Women who are pregnant with significant heart disease, congenital or acquired.
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