



Subject to Change Version: 6-5-20

Who is at higher risk of COVID-19?

COVID-19 is a new disease and information is changing on who is more likely to get COVID-19 and who is will have more complications. Based on currently available information and clinical expertise, people with intellectual and developmental disabilities may be at higher risk of severe illness resulting in death from COVID-19.

Current clinical guidance and information from the U.S. CDC lists those at high-risk for severe illness from COVID-19 as:

- People 65 years and older
- People who live in a nursing home or long-term care facility (like a congregate or group home)

People of all ages with underlying medical conditions, particularly if not well controlled, are also at high risk:

- People with chronic lung disease or moderate to severe asthma
- People who have serious heart conditions (including heart failure, coronary artery disease, congenital heart disease, cardiomyopathy)
- 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). To calculate BMI, refer to:
 - https://www.cdc.gov/healthyweight/assessing/bmi/adult_bmi/english_bmi_calculator/bmi_calculator.html
- People with diabetes
- People with chronic kidney disease undergoing dialysis
- People with liver disease
- People with brain and spinal cord disorders (like cerebral palsy, epilepsy, stroke)

If you are at a high risk, you may be putting yourself at risk when you return to activities with Special Olympics. But, you may also put at risk your family and your teammates. If you have these conditions, you should not return to Special Olympics in person activities until there is little to no COVID-19 in your community.

If you have been diagnosed with COVID-19, you should consult with a healthcare professional for written medical clearance before returning to Special Olympics in person activities as serious cardiac, respiratory, and neurological issues may develop as a result of COVID-19.