

What happens to people who get COVID-19?



Among those who develop symptoms, most (about 80%) recover from the disease without needing hospital treatment. About

15% become seriously ill
and require oxygen and 5%
become critically ill and
need intensive care.

Complications leading to
death may include
respiratory failure, acute
respiratory distress
syndrome (ARDS), sepsis
and septic shock,

thromboembolism, and/or multiorgan failure, including injury of the heart, liver or kidneys.

In rare situations, children can develop a severe inflammatory syndrome a few weeks after infection.

Who is most at risk of severe illness from COVID-19?

People aged 60 years and over, and those with underlying medical problems like high blood pressure, heart and lung problems, diabetes, obesity or cancer, are at higher risk

of developing serious illness.

However, anyone can get sick with COVID-19 and become seriously ill or die at any age.

Are there long-term effects of COVID-19?

Some people who have had COVID-19, whether they

have needed hospitalization or not, continue to experience symptoms, including fatigue, respiratory and neurological symptoms.

WHO is working with our Global Technical Network for Clinical Management of COVID-19, researchers and patient groups around the

world to design and carry out studies of patients beyond the initial acute course of illness to understand the proportion of patients who have long term effects, how long they persist, and why they occur. These studies will be used

to develop further guidance
for patient care.