

Populations at Higher Risk for Severe Illness with COVID-19 (April 2020 DRAFT)

- Older than 65 years of age
- Adults of any age with serious underlying medical conditions ie high blood pressure, diabetes, heart disease, chronic lung disease or moderate to severe asthma, history of strokes, chronic kidney disease, liver disease
- Immunocompromised people ie cancer, poorly controlled HIV/AIDS, transplant recipients, immune deficiencies ie prolonged use of corticosteroids and other immune-weakening medications
- Severe obesity - BMI 40 or higher
- Living in a nursing home or long-term care facility
- Govt of Canada states that vulnerable populations are more at risk for contracting COVID-19 and developing severe complications due to their health, social and economic circumstances and, in addition to the above → next slide

(Refs, Dr. A. Tan, Fraser Health, CDC, Govt Canada, BC CDC)

Vulnerable populations are defined as:

Anyone who has:

- difficulty reading, speaking, understanding or communicating
- difficulty accessing medical care or health advice
- difficulty doing preventive activities, like frequent hand washing, covering coughs and sneezes
- ongoing specialized medical care or needs specific medical supplies
- ongoing supervision needs or support for maintaining independence
- difficulty accessing transportation
- economic barriers
- unstable employment or inflexible working conditions
- social or geographic isolation, like in remote and isolated communities
- insecure, inadequate, or nonexistent housing conditions