

PURPOSE

The High-Risk Assessment was created to help document and prioritize high risk individuals and households experiencing homelessness who may experience more severe symptoms, hospitalization or death if exposed to COVID-19.

IDENTIFIED HIGH RISK POPULATION BY CDC

The following has been provided by the CDC in defining those who are considered high risk:

“COVID-19 is a new disease and there is limited information regarding risk factors for severe disease. 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 upon available information to date, those at high-risk for severe illness from COVID-19 include:

- *People aged 65 years and older*
- *People who live in a nursing home or long-term care facility*
- *Other high-risk conditions could include:*
 - *People with chronic lung disease or moderate to severe asthma*
 - *People who have serious heart conditions*
 - *People who are immunocompromised including cancer treatment*
 - *People of any age with severe obesity (body mass index [BMI] >40) or certain underlying medical conditions, particularly if not well controlled, such as those with diabetes, renal failure, or liver disease might also be at risk*
- *People who are pregnant should be monitored since they are known to be at risk with severe viral illness, however, to date data on COVID-19 has not shown increased risk*
- *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”*

Source: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-at-higher-risk.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fspecific-groups%2Fpeople-at-higher-risk.html

HIGH RISK ASSESSMENT FORM

A short seven question form has been created to consistently capture similar data points across the system and assist providers in identifying high-risk clients. While the form is available via paper format for ease of use, data entry into HMIS is required.

DOCUMENTATION OF CHRONIC HEALTH CONDITIONS

In order to help prioritize those individuals and households who are deemed high risk, we are requesting documentation to support the presence of the above-named chronic health conditions. Those with documentation supporting their high-risk claim will be prioritized over those who self-report in cases where resources do not match the need expressed.

Documentation Examples:

- Letter from a medical professional that states the person (1) has one of the above conditions and (2) is deemed high risk based on their medical opinion in contracting severe COVID-19 symptoms. This letter can be written by any professional who is able to diagnose and treat the above chronic health conditions.
- Client possesses prescribed medication or a prescription for medication that is or would be used to manage one of the chronic health conditions above.
- Letter from the provider verifying high risk status based on provider's knowledge of client attendance in cancer treatment, doctor's appointments, not following medication regime as indicated by medication logs, demonstrating signs of chronic health conditions but refusing medical treatment or referral. The Intake coordinator will make professional judgments on the validity of such letters and may follow up with further questions.
- Disability documentation already provided to support an approved Prioritization Pool referral.

DOCUMENTATION OF AGE

- Any form of ID or letter bearing the client's date of birth indicating that they meet the 65 and older threshold. Documentation of Date of Birth is only required for those individuals and households that enter the system after April 1, 2020.