**Medical Confirmation of Covid-19 Definition for Vulnerable Persons**

Dear Doctor

James Cook University is working with its staff to maximise their safety and protection against covid-19. The presenting JCU Staff Member has identified themselves as meeting the criteria for being a vulnerable person (“person at risk”) and we seek your confirmation on this matter. Upon receiving confirmation, JCU will conduct a risk assessment to determine what reasonable adjustments can be made to support this individual in the workplace.

JCU ask that you please review the criteria for “People at Risk” as outlined on the Australian Government Department of Health website or on the second page of this document, and confirm the following:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| I declare I have reviewed the current definition for “People at Risk” and confirm that, at the time of signing this form, this JCU Staff Member meets the criteria of a person at risk of serious or severe illness from COVID-19. | |
| Staff Member’s Name: |  |
| Treating Doctor’s Name: |  |
| Treating Doctor’s Signature: |  |
| Date: |  |
| Practice Stamp: |  |

With thanks,

Carlie Walker  
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**Australian Government Department of Health**

**People at higher risk of coronavirus (COVID-19)**

You are at greater risk of severe illness from COVID-19 if you are unvaccinated and are:

* are 70 years of age or over
* solid organ transplant recipients who are on immune suppressive therapy
* bone marrow transplant recipients
* are on immune suppressive therapy for graft versus host disease
* blood cancer eg leukaemia, lymphoma or myelodysplastic syndrome
* non-haematological cancer diagnosed within the past 5 years or on chemotherapy, radiotherapy, immunotherapy or targeted anti-cancer therapy (active treatment or recently completed) or with advanced disease regardless of treatment
* survivors of childhood cancers
* chronic inflammatory conditions requiring medical treatments
* primary or acquired immunodeficiency
* [chronic renal (kidney) failure](https://www.healthdirect.gov.au/kidney-failure)
* [heart disease](https://www.healthdirect.gov.au/coronary-heart-disease-and-atherosclerosis)(coronary heart disease or failure)
* [chronic lung disease](https://www.healthdirect.gov.au/lung-conditions) (excludes mild or moderate asthma)
* a non-haematological cancer (diagnosed in the last 12 months)
* [diabetes](https://www.healthdirect.gov.au/diabetes)
* [severe obesity](https://www.healthdirect.gov.au/obesity) with a BMI ≥ 40 kg/m2
* chronic liver disease
* some neurological conditions (stroke, dementia, other) (speak to your doctor about your risk)
* poorly controlled [blood pressure](https://www.healthdirect.gov.au/high-blood-pressure-hypertension) (may increase risk – speak to your doctor)
* pregnant people
* significant disability requiring frequent assistance with activities of daily living
* severe mental health conditions.

Other things that might affect your risk

Having 2 or more conditions might increase your risk, regardless of your age. If your condition is severe or poorly controlled, this might also increase your risk of serious illness from COVID-19.

Other factors might also increase your risk of severe illness if you contract COVID-19, including:

* age – risk increases as you get older, even for those under 70
* being male
* poverty
* smoking.

This information is current as of 12 October 2021 and sourced from: <https://www.health.gov.au/news/health-alerts/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-health-alert/ongoing-support-during-coronavirus-covid-19/what-you-need-to-know-about-coronavirus-covid-19/people-at-higher-risk-of-coronavirus-covid-19>