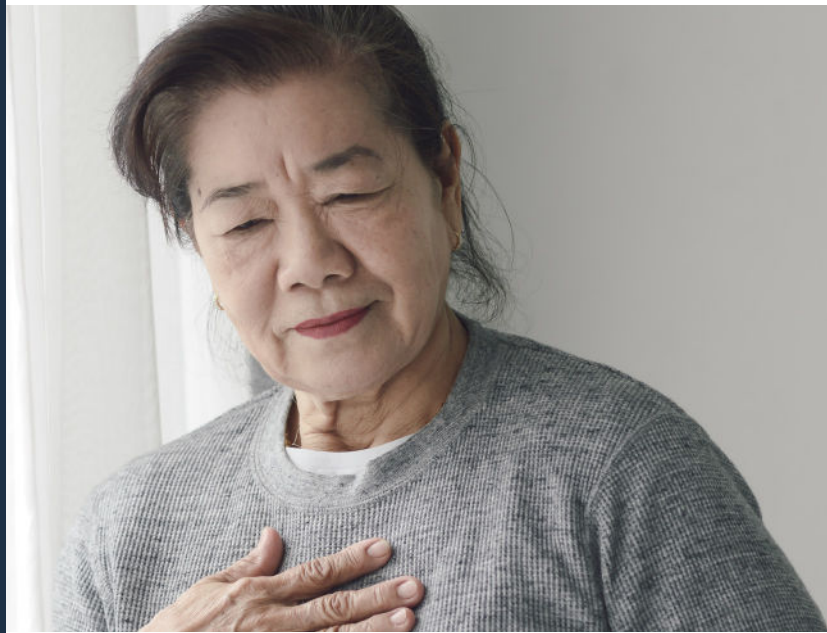


Do you have a cardiovascular disease? Here's what you need to know about COVID-19



The information provided in this document are general recommendations and are not intended as medical advice for individual situations.

People with blood vessel and heart conditions can get very sick from COVID-19. Learn how you can protect your patients.

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How to talk to patients about COVID-19 and cardiovascular diseases?

Here's how you can hit home the risks of COVID-19 for patients with cardiovascular disease:

- COVID-19 can add stress to the lungs and heart. This can make heart or blood vessel problems worse.
- COVID-19 can cause more blood clots, increasing the risk for heart attack or stroke.
- One study found people with cardiovascular disease were five times more likely to get severe symptoms of COVID-19, compared to the general population.

How does COVID-19 affect people with cardiovascular diseases?

- COVID-19 can add stress to the lungs and heart. This can make your heart or blood vessel problem worse.
- COVID-19 can also cause more blood clots, increasing the risk for heart attack or stroke.
- One study found people with cardiovascular disease were five times more likely to get severe symptoms of COVID-19, compared to the general population.

How can people who have cardiovascular diseases protect themselves from COVID-19?

- People over 65 should get an updated COVID-19 vaccine for the 2023-2024 respiratory virus season.
- Medical experts think COVID vaccines may need to be updated annually, like flu vaccines.
- Many people with cardiovascular disease will benefit from antiviral medicine if they do become infected with COVID-19. Many cardiovascular medications and interact with Paxlovid. Be sure to remind your patients to inform all providers of the heart medications they're taking, to avoid a harmful drug interaction.

Are vaccines safe for people with cardiovascular diseases?

- Yes. Vaccines are just as safe for people with cardiovascular disease, as they are for the general population.
- Myocarditis is 7 times more likely to occur from a COVID-19 infection, than from the vaccine.

People with cardiovascular disease have a higher chance of being hospitalized with COVID-19. An updated COVID-19 vaccine helps your patients stay healthy.

If you have any questions about COVID-19 vaccines, please refer to the latest CDC guidelines.