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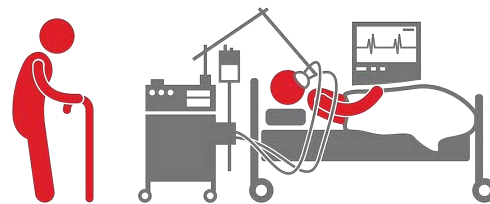
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COVID-19 and its impact on older adults

Covid-19 has had a major direct effect on the older adult population because the older a person is, the greater their chance of dying from the disease.

The death rate among older people is climbing.

There also have been major indirect impacts on this sector of the population such as



losing their support networks



restrictions on access to non Covid-19 related health care



possibility of experiencing neglect or abuse in medical institutions or care facilities.

Other effects have been increasing poverty as people lose their livelihoods or become unemployed; the negative impact on mental health and well-being of prolonged isolation and a more limited ability to connect with other people by digital means, thereby leading to stigmatization and discrimination.





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Health and well-being

Approaches for attending to older persons during the pandemic can include:



1. Strengthening social inclusion and solidarity mechanisms while social distancing measures are in place.

2. Prioritizing attention for older persons in socioeconomic and humanitarian responses to Covid-19.



3. Promoting great participation by older persons in Covid-19 related decision-making processes that affect them, and

4. Ensuring that difficult decisions about the health of older persons are guided by a commitment to their dignity and to the right to health based on the principle that all lives are of equal value.



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