

You may have heard about COVID-19. Don't be afraid – most people who get COVID-19 are can recover at home and don't get very sick.

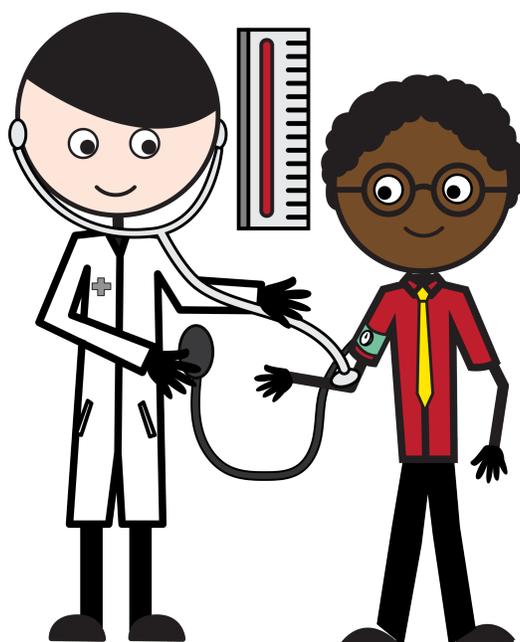


If you do get it and get very sick, you may need to be in the hospital. In other states some people with disabilities are not getting the help they need. In Colorado, EVERYONE will be able to see a Doctor. Your disability doesn't matter.



What does the doctor need to know to help me? What do I need to do?

If you are sick from COVID-19 and need to go to the hospital, you have some medical rights. These rights are based on your medical information, so doctors will need to know about you. They will ask about your health history and use that and the other things you tell them to learn as much as they can about you. For example, the doctor might look at your blood pressure or ask if you have diabetes. All of this information will help the doctor make the best choice about a care plan for you.



How does a doctor decide who gets help if there are a lot of sick people?

Colorado is working hard to be ready if we have a lot of people who are sick. If we do not have enough medicine, breathing machines, or hospital beds for everyone, Colorado made a plan to decide who gets help first. The help you need and will get will not be less because of your disability.

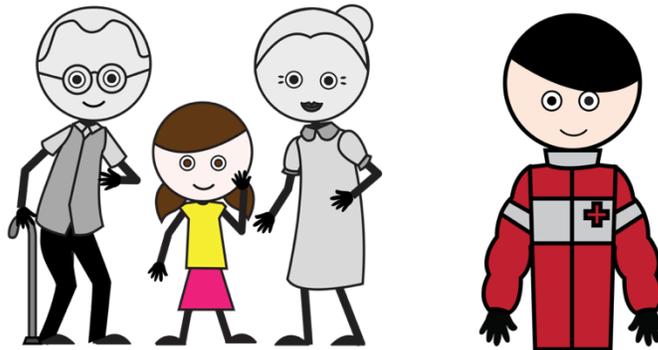


If there are a lot of sick people, these are the questions doctors will ask to decide who gets help.

1. How sick are you? Will a breathing machine help you?



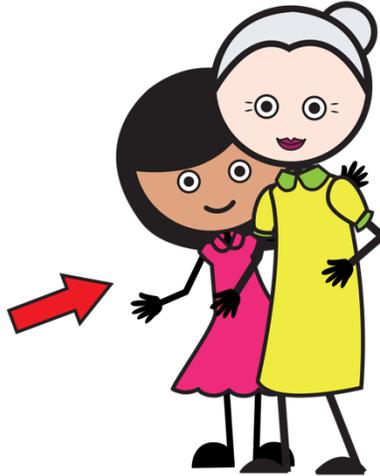
2. Are you a child, doctor, nurse, health care worker, policeman, fireman, sheriff, or paramedic?



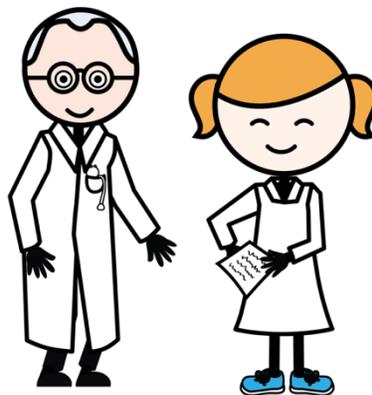
3. Are you pregnant?



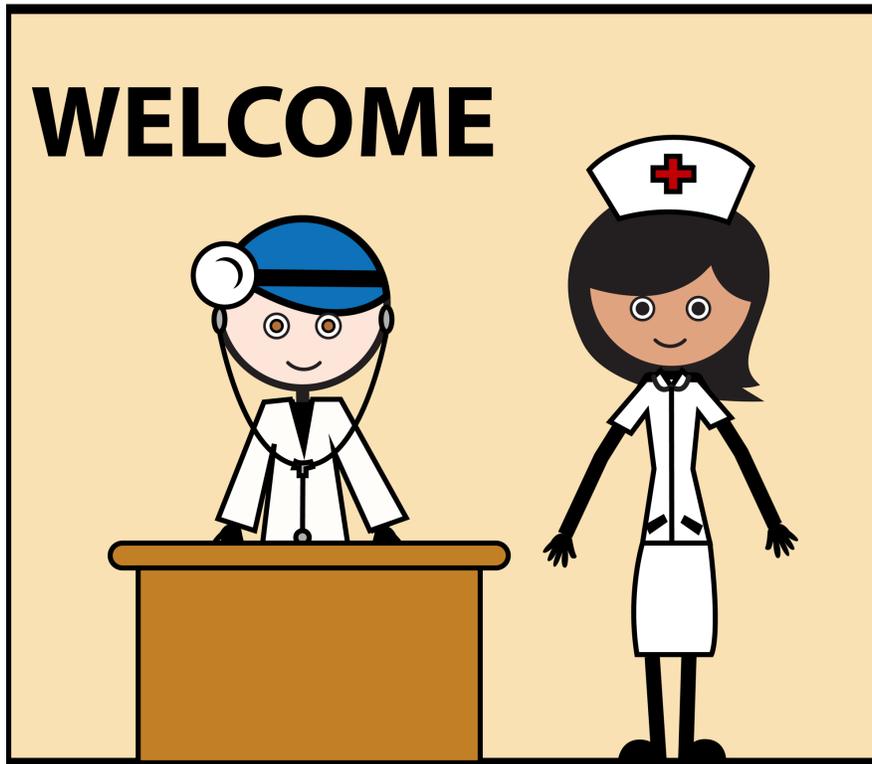
4. Do you take care of someone else by yourself?



5. How much longer would you probably live if you were healthy?



If all the answers to these questions are the same for several people, they will make a choice. It is like drawing a name out of a hat.



It's okay - you don't need to be afraid. Right now, we have the medicine, breathing machines, and hospital beds to take care of the people who are sick. This plan will only be used if there are lots of very sick people and hospitals don't have what they need to treat everyone. No matter what happens, your doctors and nurses will do everything that they can to give you the best medical care.