COVID-19 and tobacco use

Smoking is a known risk factor for many respiratory infections and increases the severity of respiratory diseases like COVID-19.

COVID-19 is an infectious disease that attacks the lungs.

A review of studies by public health experts found that smokers are more likely to develop severe disease with COVID-19, compared to non-smokers.

Smoking impairs lung function making it harder for the body to fight off coronaviruses and other diseases.

There is insufficient information to confirm any link between tobacco or nicotine in the prevention or treatment of COVID-19.

Tobacco is also a major risk factor for noncommunicable diseases like cardiovascular disease, cancer, respiratory disease and diabetes, which put people with these conditions at higher risk for developing severe illness when affected by COVID-19.

Tobacco kills more than 8 million people globally every year.

More than 7 million of these deaths are from direct tobacco use.

Approximately 1.2 million are due to non-smokers being exposed to second-hand smoke.