

Categorization of acute disease severity

1) Asymptomatic or very mild symptoms

A positive PCR result was found in screening samples with no noticeable symptoms.

Very mild flu-like symptoms (mild cough, runny nose, sore throat) but no shortness of breath. Low-grade fever of 37.5°C – 38°C. Sought help for the symptoms but no need for hospitalization or supplemental oxygen.

2) Mild symptoms

For the outpatients, fever of over 38°C mild dyspnea, severe fatigue, and myalgia with difficult cough.

For hospitalized patients, no need for supplemental oxygen or a native blood oxygen saturation level of over 95 %.

3) Moderate symptoms

Hospitalized patients with dyspnea or native blood oxygen saturation of less than 95 % on admission. Need for oxygen therapy with nasal cannula. Additionally, a hospitalization period of less than 7 days, no need for more intensive respiratory support.

4) Severe symptoms

Hospitalized patients who needed more intensive respiratory support (nasal high-flow oxygen therapy, non-invasive ventilation) but not mechanical ventilation.

Hospitalized patients who needed mechanical ventilation or intensive care. Patients that had acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS) or severe hypoxemia or needed hospitalization for over 7 days.