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COVID-19 (coronavirus): Long term effects

COVID-19 symptoms can sometimes persist for months.

The virus can damage the lungs, heart and brain, which increases the risk of long-term health problems.

Organ damage caused by COVID-19

- **Heart.** Increased risk of heart failure or other heart complications in the future.
- Lungs. Long-standing damage to the tiny air sacs (alveoli) in the lungs. The resulting scar tissue can lead to long-term breathing problems.
- Brain. Strokes, seizures and Guillain-Barre syndrome, increased the risk of developing Parkinson's disease and Alzheimer's disease.

Blood clots and blood vessel problems

Problems with mood and fatigue

Many long-term COVID-19 effects still unknown

Follow-up

Most common long-term signs and symptoms:

- Fatigue
- Shortness of breath
- Cough
- Joint pain
- Chest pain

Other long-term signs and symptoms may include:

- Muscle pain or headache
- Fast or pounding heartbeat
- Loss of smell or taste
- Memory, concentration or sleep problems
- Rash or hair loss

www.mayoclinic.org