



# Smoking quantitatively increases risk for COVID-19

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**A one standard deviation increase in cigarettes smoked per day is associated with 2.5-fold increased risk for very severe COVID-19 and 2-fold increased risk for hospitalisation with COVID-19**  
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*To the Editor:*

The coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic has raised concern about the influence of smoking and alcohol drinking behaviour on the susceptibility to coronavirus infection and its severity. Widely debated, the connection remains highly controversial. Conclusions derived from observational studies commonly suffer from limited ability to discern causes and effects.

