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**Guide to characterizing respiratory illness as predominately mild or serious:**

**Predominately SERIOUS Illness**

- Illness is more than “a bad cold” in many or most of those affected.
- Illness may be remarkable in its suddenness and accompanying extreme fatigue (prostration).
- Affected individuals generally are not up and about while ill.
- Eating and drinking are likely to be affected.
- Symptoms may persist.
  - There are complications such as pneumonia (viral or secondary bacterial), heart failure or septicemia in clients or staff for whom pre-existing frailty or underlying chronic illness is not a satisfactory explanation for such complications.
- Illness may be prolonged, with cases taking longer than expected to recover.

**Predominately MILD Illness**

- Illness is mild and “common cold-like” in most of those affected.
- From onset (or within a day or two), activity levels, including eating and drinking, are not markedly different than usual.

**Note:** There may be individual exceptions due to underlying pre-existing illness that makes certain individuals very susceptible to complications from any respiratory infection.