



## **Your Cancer and COVID-19: What to ask your health care team**

If you or a loved one have been impacted by cancer, you may have some questions about how the coronavirus or COVID-19 might affect you. Because every person touched by cancer has a different treatment plan and individual needs, patients and their caregivers should talk with their health care team, to get answers specific to your circumstances.

Here are questions, some suggested by the American Cancer Society, that people with cancer may want to ask their health care team about COVID-19, vaccines, and their healthcare plan.

### **For people with cancer, talk to your provider about the COVID-19 vaccine:**

- If your doctor or nurse recommends getting the vaccine, ask about:
  - Which priority group am I in for receiving the vaccine?
  - Which vaccine would you recommend?
  - Are there likely side effects from the vaccine and how long do they typically last?
- If the recommendation is to not get a vaccine, or not at the current time, ask about:
  - When am I likely to be eligible for the vaccine?
  - Is my course of treatment one reason I am not currently recommended for the vaccine?
  - How do I find out when I will be eligible for the vaccine?

Whether or not you receive the vaccine, it is still important to observe social distancing and all health precautions as currently advised to protect yourself and others.

### **For people with cancer, a history of cancer or people with symptoms of cancer, facing a possible diagnosis:**

- Am I at higher risk of getting coronavirus or COVID-19? Why or why not?
- Are there special precautions I should be taking? If so, for how long?
- Can I go to work during this time? Should my caregiver go to work?
- Can I visit friends? Can they visit me?
- What can I do to prevent contracting coronavirus?
- How much do I need to stay at home? Can I run errands like going to the store?
- Should I keep appointments for follow-up tests or reschedule those tests for a later time?
- What symptoms of COVID-19 should I watch for?
- What should I do if I have symptoms of COVID-19?
- If I get tested and I'm positive for coronavirus, what will happen?
- Will this outbreak delay or affect my care in any way?
- Is telehealth available so I can continue to get care using a virtual online service during this time?

**Additional questions for people getting ready to start treatment, have exams, tests or surgery for cancer:**

- Will having this procedure or starting treatment put me at a higher risk of getting coronavirus or COVID-19?
- Is there a chance I can be exposed to coronavirus when I come in for treatment or for my procedure?
- Is it necessary for me to have this procedure or start treatment now, or is it safe to wait?
- Is there a chance my procedure or treatment will get cancelled? What are my options if it's cancelled?
- Can I bring a caregiver with me to my procedure or to treatment? Will I be able to have visitors?
- Will this outbreak delay any results from treatment, an exam or a procedure?
- Am I able to get care, treatment or bloodwork at home?
- Are there any medicines or supplements I can take during treatment to lessen my risk of contracting COVID-19?
- What precautions do I need to take when I come in for treatment or checkups?
- Should I continue treatment or keep my appointments if I have symptoms of COVID-19?