COVID19 and Cancer

What you need to know about the Coronavirus.

Source: Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center

Information for cancer patients, survivors and caregivers on who’s most at risk for COVID-19 and what you can do to stay healthy.

Are all cancer patients at risk?
Or just those currently in treatment?

Patients with blood malignancies such as non-Hodgkin lymphoma, chronic lymphocytic leukemia, acute myeloid leukemia, acute lymphoblastic leukemia and multiple myeloma are most at risk.

Also at risk: those in active treatment for any type of cancer and those who have undergone bone marrow transplants.

(Active treatment is usually defined as surgery, radiation, chemotherapy and other treatments such as immunotherapies.)

Read the full article here

Can patients and survivors get tested to see if they’re immunosuppressed?

There’s no easy blood test to check someone’s level of immune suppression, but being in active chemotherapy, having low white-cell or low lymphocyte counts and/or taking immune-suppressive agents (such as prednisone) are all associated with immune suppression and increased risk of infection.

Should I cancel my treatment or follow-up appointments?

If you have symptoms, check with your care provider!

If you do NOT have symptoms and have scheduled appointments or treatment, you should keep those appointments but do check with your care provider if you have any questions or concerns.

Are there ways to keep your immune system strong?

Absolutely! Exercise, eating right, and getting enough sleep are all great ways to keep your immune system strong. The article linked above has some great tips.
Check out this video from SHARE Cancer Support to learn more about the Coronavirus and Cancer.

More about COVID19 from the American Cancer Society