

COVID-19 Important Information for Cancer Patients

What do I need to know?

If you have cancer, you are at a higher risk of getting an infection. Certain cancers and cancer treatments weaken your immune system making it hard for your body to fight infections.

What are the symptoms of COVID-19?

It is important to watch for flu-like symptoms such as:

- Fever 38°C or higher
- Cough
- One or more of the following:
 - Sore Throat
 - Runny Nose
 - Nasal Stuffiness
 - Muscle or joint aches
 - Chills
 - Fatigue (tiredness)
 - Weakness
 - Feeling unwell
 - Diarrhea (loose bowel or watery stool)

I have an appointment at CancerCare Manitoba. What is going to happen?

- If you are scheduled in the treatment room or for radiation treatment, please attend your appointment as scheduled unless you are told otherwise.
- For clinic visits, your appointment will occur by phone, unless you are told otherwise. Make sure you are available by the phone at your scheduled appointment time. Please note that calls may not occur at your exact appointment time.
- Your physician may change your appointment. In this case you will be contacted by phone.

What do I need to know when I arrive for my appointment?

To protect the safety of patients and staff, CancerCare Manitoba must limit the number of people in the building.

- Effective March 25, 2020, we are tightening our risk reduction measures. **Support persons/escorts will not be allowed to accompany patients for visits except in exceptional circumstances.** Pediatric patients are allowed only one parent/caregiver to be present at the appointment. You can use your personal cell phone to include another person in your appointment.

- When you arrive at the entrances listed below, you will be assessed for travel history and symptoms.
- If your appointment is at 675 McDermot Avenue:
 - You must enter at the front door at 675 McDermot Avenue
- If your appointment is at CancerCare Manitoba St. Boniface Unit:
 - You must enter at south entrance (below Emergency entrance)
- If your appointment is at CancerCare Oncology Victoria General Hospital:
 - You must enter the main doors of the Buhler Cancer Centre
- If your appointment is at Western Manitoba Cancer Centre:
 - You must enter the north main entrance
- If your appointment is at CancerCare Oncology Grace General Hospital:
 - You must enter the main entrance on Booth Drive
- If your appointment is at CancerCare Oncology Concordia Hospital:
 - You must enter the main entrance on Concordia Avenue
- **If your appointment is at CancerCare Oncology Seven Oaks General Hospital:**
 - **CancerCare Manitoba's Seven Oaks General Hospital cancer clinic will be delivered out of the Victoria General Hospital cancer clinic for the next four weeks (as of March 20, 2020).** You must enter the main doors of the Buhler Cancer Centre at Victoria General Hospital. See contact information below:
 - Dr. Tunji Fatoye at Seven Oaks General Hospital/Victoria General Hospital Cancer Clinic
Phone number: 204-477-3328 (front reception)
Fax number: 204-275-1376
Nurse: Maribeth Mayuga
Clerk: Caroline Caernac

If I have flu-like symptoms, what should I do?

If you have any of the symptoms listed above, **DO NOT** come to CancerCare Manitoba. You might put other patients at risk

Here's what you need to do:

- Call your healthcare team at CancerCare Manitoba and tell them your symptoms.
- Follow their instructions on what to do.
- If you need urgent medical care call 911. Tell them you are a cancer patient and what symptoms you have.

I have had cancer and I am not on any active treatment. What do I need to know?

Cancer patients who have **recently** finished their active treatment need to know:

- It takes time for your immune system to recover after treatment.

- Depending on the type of cancer and cancer treatment you had, this may take months or longer. Talk your health care team if you have questions.
- Be careful. Follow the steps below to reduce your risk of getting an infection.

Cancer patients who completed their treatment **a long time ago** or who are considered in remission (no sign of cancer):

- The risk of infection is thought to be lower if you are younger and otherwise healthy.
- If you are older (over 65) or have other health conditions (such as lung disease, heart disease, diabetes, kidney disease), your risk of getting an infection is high.

How can I lower my risk of getting an infection?

If you are on cancer treatment you are recommended to be careful during this time. Here are steps that you and your family can do to help lower the risk of infection:

- **Do not travel out of province. The risk of exposure to COVID-19 during travel outside Manitoba continues to increase.**
- Wash your hands often with soap and water. Wash for at least 20 seconds. Dry your hands completely. If you do not have soap, you can use alcohol hand sanitizer if your hands are not visibly dirty.
- Wash your hands:
 - Before, during and after making meals
 - Before eating
 - After using the toilet
 - When your hands are dirty
- Cover your mouth and nose when coughing and sneezing. Use a tissue or your sleeve. Throw tissues you have used in the garbage and wash your hands right away.
- Try not to touch your eyes, nose and mouth.
- Do not shake hands or give hugs.
- Do not share items such as drinking glasses, spoons/forks or tooth brushes.
- Clean (disinfect) surfaces such as phones, computer, tables, chairs, countertops, door knobs.
- Stay away from people who are sick.
- Avoid crowded places.

CancerCare Manitoba and Shared Health are closely monitoring the COVID-19 situation. If you have any questions or concerns about your risk of COVID-19, please talk to your healthcare team or call CancerCare Manitoba at 1-855-837-5400 (Hours: Monday to Friday 8am-6pm and Weekends 8am-4pm).



COVID-19 visit <https://www.gov.mb.ca/health/coronavirus>.

CancerCare Manitoba visit <https://www.cancercare.mb.ca>.

Sincerely,

CancerCare Manitoba

