

## **COVID-19 and Your Child, Teen, or Young Adult with Cancer**

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The COVID-19 virus that has spread across the world has caused worry for everyone. For families taking care of children with cancer, we know that the worry may be even higher. Here are answers to some general questions you may be asking. For specific questions about your child's health, talk to your health care provider.

**As a parent or caregiver of a child, teen, or young adult with cancer, you should take extra precautions.** Below you will find some facts that will help you to lower the chance of your child catching the infection or transmitting it to others, and will help you know what to do if you think your child may have COVID-19. As always, please contact your child's primary treatment team with any concerns that you may have.

### **How can I protect my child from getting infected?**

- Continue to follow the steps for preventing infection as outlined in COG's [New Diagnosis Guide](https://childrensoncologygroup.org/cog-family-handbook) (<https://childrensoncologygroup.org/cog-family-handbook>).
- Strongly consider getting the COVID19 vaccine for yourself and all members of your household as soon as you are eligible for it.
- Have your child wear a mask when around people who live outside of your household, whenever possible.
- Keep a safe distance (3 to 6 feet) between your child and other people, if at all possible.
- Keep your child away from anyone who is sick.
- Have your child (and everyone in your household) wash their hands often with soap and water. Use hand sanitizer when soap and water are not available.

### **Should my child get the COVID-19 vaccine while receiving cancer treatment?**

- Most children receiving cancer treatment should get the COVID-19 vaccine when they are eligible for it. However, the timing of the vaccine will depend on the child's cancer treatment plan and schedule. Talk with your child's health care provider to determine when your child should get the COVID-19 vaccine.
- A small number of people are allergic to one of the vaccine components. If your child has had a severe allergic reaction to polyethylene glycol (PEG) or to polysorbate, check with their health care provider to determine which formulation of the vaccine is best for your child.

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## Will my child continue their cancer treatment during the COVID-19 health emergency?

- In most cases, treatment will continue as planned.
- Your treatment center will continue to provide essential treatment for your child.
- Do not stop any home chemotherapy without talking to your child's treatment team first.
- If you have any questions about your child's treatment, talk with your child's treatment team.

## What are the symptoms of COVID-19?

- The most common symptoms are:
  - Fever
  - Shortness of breath
  - Cough
  - Difficulty breathing
- Symptoms may also include:
  - Tiredness
  - Sore throat
  - Aches
  - Diarrhea or nausea
  - Runny nose
  - Loss of taste or smell

## If my child gets a fever, do I still have to come to the hospital?

- Your management of your child's fever should not change because of COVID-19.
- If your child has a fever you should continue to follow the usual instructions for fever that you have received from your health care team.

## What should I do if I think my child may have COVID-19?

- If you think your child may have COVID-19, be sure to notify your health care team when you call, so that they can determine what precautions and next steps are needed.
- Be sure to tell any health care provider who is caring for your child that your child is being treated for cancer.

## Is there anything else I can do?

- We recognize this is a very stressful time for you and your family.
- COVID-19 information continues to change frequently. Be aware of recommendations provided by your national and/or local authorities. Discuss with your health care team how these recommendations apply to your child's current health status.
- Please talk to your team about your questions and worries during this time.