Additional advice on Coronavirus (COVID-19) for cancer patients currently on treatment

If you are a cancer patient on treatment, whether chemotherapy or radiotherapy, you should continue to attend for your treatment unless you have been contacted to reschedule.

If you have been advised by a public health doctor that you are a 'close contact' of someone with coronavirus (COVID-19), call the unit first for advice before attending.

If you are concerned about symptoms of coronavirus (cough, shortness of breath, breathing difficulties or high temperature), contact your GP or oncology unit before attending.

Some cancer treatments can cause a weak immune system. Other lung viruses can cause severe illness in people who have a weak immune system. This is likely to be the same for coronavirus. This is why you should take extra care to prevent infection if you have a weak immune system. This is similar for other infections, such as flu.

Wash your hands properly and often to stop viruses like coronavirus spreading. Don't touch your face. You should also avoid people who are unwell.

If you are on cancer treatment, take extra care to protect yourself from coronavirus. We expect there to be community spread of the virus soon. Think about how you can avoid crowded spaces, especially indoors. Indoor spaces are less well ventilated. The virus is more likely to spread in smaller and more crowded spaces.

• Stay up to date, check the www.hse.ie - HSE coronavirus page
• Avoid all but essential travel to affected areas
• Wash your hands frequently with soap and water or alcohol hand rub
• Cover your cough, dispose of the tissue, wash your hands
• Avoid touching your face with unclean hands
• Regularly clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces
• Avoid contact with anyone who is ill with a cough or difficulty breathing
• If you are ill, minimise contact with others, especially those who have medical conditions, are elderly or pregnant.

Phone your doctor if you have any symptoms of coronavirus and are concerned.

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