

## **Advice on Coronavirus (COVID-19) for volunteers who work with people with cancer**

This is particularly important for volunteers working with cancer patients currently on treatment. If you have been advised by a public health doctor that you are a 'close contact' of someone with coronavirus (COVID-19), you should not volunteer with cancer patients for 14 days.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) is a new virus. We are still learning how it works.

There are some groups of people who may be more at risk of serious illness if they catch coronavirus. But we do not think these groups have a higher risk of catching coronavirus. This is similar to other infections such as [flu](#).

It is likely you are more at risk of serious illness if you catch coronavirus and:

- are 60 years of age and over
- have a long-term medical condition – for example, heart disease, lung disease, diabetes, cancer or high blood pressure

If you are volunteering with a person in an at-risk group, take extra care to [protect yourself and the person you care for from coronavirus](#). 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](#). This is similar for other infections, such as [flu](#).

- Stay up to date, check the [www.hse.ie](http://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.

If you are concerned about [symptoms of coronavirus](#) (cough, shortness of breath, breathing difficulties or high temperature), contact your GP.