

Advice for cancer patients currently awaiting COVID-19 test results

Coronavirus (COVID-19) is a new virus. We are still learning how it works. This is an evolving situation and this advice is based on current information.

This advice is specifically for cancer patients who have been referred for a COVID-19 test or are awaiting the result of a test.

Your GP or cancer team has arranged for you to have a COVID-19 test. This could be because you have symptoms of possible COVID-19, have been in contact with someone with COVID-19 or as a screen before a particular treatment.

Your team will look at your overall health and decide when you are fit for your cancer treatment, considering that you may have COVID-19. Current advice is that if you test positive for COVID-19, this will be at least 10 days from when your symptoms started and you need to have had no fever for at least 5 days before you can have your cancer treatment.

If you have possible or confirmed COVID-19, the start date of your treatment could be delayed by 2-3 weeks. Or if you are already on treatment, you may have a longer break than normal before attending for your next treatment.

These changes will be made by your oncology/haematology team in your best interest.

Starting or re-starting treatment will be based on how well you are and the length of time since you first got sick (at least 10 days symptom free and 5 days with no fever).

If you have COVID-19 it is important to follow any advice you have been given about [restricting your movements](#) (stay at home) if you have been in contact with someone with COVID-19 or are [self-isolating](#) (stay in your room).

Together 4 Cancer Concern can help if you are struggling with the emotional and psychological effects of living with cancer during this very challenging and uncertain time. Contact the service through the Irish Cancer Society's Support line **Freephone 1800 200 700**.

Community cancer support centres are continuing to provide services to cancer patients and their families. Contact a centre local to you for advice and support.

Stay up to date, check the [HSE COVID-19 page](#)

Last updated 30/08/2021 Please see www.hse.ie/coronavirus