

Coronavirus Guidance for People with Cancer

Updated 03/19/2020, 9:00 a.m.

The coronavirus pandemic is a rapidly evolving situation, and the medical community continues to learn more about the virus and how it is spread. We are monitoring CDC recommendations and adjusting our recommendations as necessary.

Everyone – including patients with people with cancer – should practice basic infection control preventions to minimize the risk of getting or spreading coronavirus.

Please read about [basic prevention guidelines](#), which apply to all populations.

Additional guidance for patients from the University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center includes:

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention identifies certain patient populations at higher risk for serious illness with COVID-19. This includes adults older than 60 and people in active treatment for cancer.

As your healthcare partner, we are proactively following guidance from the CDC and other state and federal agencies to safeguard our patients while continuing to provide necessary cancer care.

Appointment Recommendations

- Our clinics are open and you should plan to come to your scheduled appointments.
- We are evaluating whether some follow-up appointments can be deferred or whether video visits could be an option for some patients. The clinic will contact you if there are changes to your scheduled appointment.
- Please call us before coming to your appointment if you have a fever, cough or other symptoms of coronavirus or if you believe you may have been exposed to somebody who

has the coronavirus infection. We will help you decide what is safest for you and others in regards to your next visit. For example, we may ask you to wear a mask. We will also decide with you if you need to be tested.

- We encourage all patients to enroll in the Michigan Medicine [Patient Portal](https://www.myuofmhealth.org) (www.myuofmhealth.org) so that we can continue to share information and resources with you. Portal access will also be required to participate in video visits.
- Please note that our visitor policy for outpatient visits has changed. Adult patients are limited to one companion who is providing transportation to the patient receiving care. No children under 16 will be allowed to visit, except under exceptional circumstances.

Additional Actions

Everyone who enters our facilities will be screened for coronavirus symptoms, including patients, visitors and staff. We encourage anyone exhibiting respiratory symptoms to wear surgical masks while visiting any Rogel Cancer Center clinic. We do not recommend the routine use of masks outside the hospital.

Additional Recommendations

- We recommend not attending events or gatherings of more than 10 people or where you cannot maintain 6-10 feet of distance from others. Never attend an event if you are sick with fever, cough or shortness of breath. Do not shake hands with others, and wash your hands frequently.
- At this point, we discourage all domestic and international travel for our patients.
- We recommend patients follow [guidelines from the CDC for stocking up on supplies](#) if you need to be isolated for a period of time.

If you have additional questions, please contact your cancer care providers.