

Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) For Oncology Patients

At Hawai'i Pacific Health, the health and safety of our patients and staff is our top priority. We are closely monitoring the developing COVID-19 situation and want to ensure our patients with cancer are informed and prepared.

People with cancer may have weakened immune systems, making it harder for the body to fight off diseases. It is important for these patients and their families to protect themselves and take precautions to prevent exposure. Early information from the initial outbreak in China has demonstrated that patients with cancer are at an increased risk. While all patients with cancer are at risk, patients with blood malignancies (non-Hodgkin lymphoma, chronic lymphocytic leukemia, acute myeloid leukemia, acute lymphoblastic leukemia, and multiple myeloma), those undergoing active treatment (surgery, radiation, chemotherapy, and other treatments such as immunotherapies) for any type of cancer, and those who have undergone a bone marrow transplant are at higher risk.

With confirmed cases of COVID-19 now identified in Hawaii, we are taking measures to monitor visitors to our facilities and ensure appropriate infection control measures are followed upon entry.

Please be aware that all Hawaii Pacific Health Cancer Centers are operating under normal business hours, which includes the following:

- **Medical Oncology**
 - Pediatric Ambulatory Unit at Kapiolani Medical Center for Women & Children
 - Women's Ambulatory Cancer Center at Kapiolani Medical Center for Women & Children
 - Kapiolani Women's Center at Artesian
 - Hawai'i Pacific Health Cancer Center at Pali Momi Medical Center
 - Straub Medical Center
 - Straub Medical Center at Pacific Cancer Institute Maui
 - Kauai Medical Clinical
- **Infusion Services**
 - Hawai'i Pacific Health Cancer Center at Pali Momi Medical Center
 - Straub Medical Center
 - Pediatric Ambulatory Unit at Kapiolani Medical Center for Women & Children
 - Women's Ambulatory Cancer Center at Kapiolani Medical Center for Women & Children
 - Wilcox Medical Center

If you have a scheduled appointment at one of our above locations, you may receive a call to either reschedule or switch to a tele-visit, per your provider. If you do not hear from us, please plan to keep this appointment unless you are experiencing symptoms such as fever, cough, congestion, sore throat, runny nose, or shortness of breath.

If you are experiencing these symptoms, please speak with your care team by calling your cancer care provider.

CANCER CENTERS

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STRAUB
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Please visit hawaiipacifichealth.org/coronavirus for the most current information and to view our frequently asked questions.

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Frequently Asked Questions

Can I bring children and family members/caregivers to my appointment(s)?

Please avoid bringing children under 12 to the clinic or infusion suite. We also ask that you bring only one additional person to your appointment(s) to assist us in providing a safe environment for all patients.

What should I do if I have cold or flu symptoms?

If you must see your team and have active symptoms such as fever, cough, shortness of breath, or other respiratory symptoms including congestion or runny nose, please call your medical oncologist. Nurses will provide guidance about whether you should come to your appointment or wait until your symptoms are gone.

Are patients screened for respiratory symptoms?

Yes, all patients arriving to our medical centers and our cancer care areas are being screened for symptoms of respiratory illness at the entrances.

Should I wear a mask in the clinic?

You should wear a mask in the clinic only if directed to do so by staff. If staff determine you have symptoms, they will give you a mask and instruct you on how to wear it properly. If worn correctly, masks can help decrease the spread of respiratory viruses and bacteria.

If my family members/caregivers and I do not have a fever or respiratory symptoms, should we wear a mask in public?

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, if you don't have symptoms, there is no need to wear a mask. Masks are to prevent patients who are showing symptoms from spreading disease to others.

Are patient education events, support groups or other events taking place?

Cancer-related events and support groups vary by location and are updated regularly. Please contact your group leader to confirm if the event will be held. If you have symptoms, please contact your care team, and do not attend these groups.

Is there anything I can do to keep myself, my family and friends safe?

Follow the prevention tips on our website and those recommended by the Hawaii Department of Health and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.



Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.



If you haven't already this season, get your flu shot.



Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.



Avoid close contact with people who are sick.



Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.



If you are well, don't wear a face mask.

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