

Cancer Care During COVID-19

FAQs

Due to the COVID-19 virus, we realize there are questions you may have prior to coming to the Franciscan Health Cancer Center for your appointment. Our cancer services remain open and your appointments will continue unless otherwise directed. Below is a list of frequently asked questions specific to our cancer patients to better help you address your questions or concerns.

I HAVE AN APPOINTMENT OR SURGERY COMING UP, DUE TO VARIOUS TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS, SHOULD I RESCHEDULE?

Franciscan Health adheres to the travel restrictions in place by local government authorities. However, healthcare facilities providing essential and emergency services are still open. **Our cancer services remain open**, and your appointments will continue unless otherwise directed.

ARE CANCER PATIENTS AT HIGHER RISK FOR THE VIRUS?

Cancer patients undergoing treatment have a lower immune system response compared to the general public; therefore, it is important to take extra precautions as infections occur mostly through close, direct contact with someone who is carrying the virus.

SHOULD CANCER PATIENTS WEAR A MASK OR AVOID PUBLIC AREAS?

In general, cancer patients should avoid going out in public. However, if you must go out, wearing a mask may prevent you from touching your nose or mouth, which is another way the virus could enter your body. Good hand hygiene is always important. Staying away from crowds is recommended. **Please follow the instructions provided by your healthcare team.**

IS IT SAFE FOR ME TO GO TO HOSPITAL APPOINTMENTS?

Franciscan Health is taking added precautions to prevent the spread of COVID-19. All patients and staff will be asked to participate in a pre-screening assessment before entering the hospital. **If you have a fever, cough or shortness of breath, contact your care team BEFORE your appointment.**

ARE VISITORS STILL ALLOWED TO COME WITH PATIENTS TO THEIR APPOINTMENTS?

To reduce the spread of infection, Franciscan Health will no longer allow visitors until further notice. Exceptions can be made for certain situations. Please contact your local Cancer Center care team to find out their visitor policy.

WHAT IF I NEED TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT FOR A PREVENTATIVE CANCER SCREENING – LUNG SCAN, COLONOSCOPY, MAMMOGRAM, ETC.?

Franciscan Health is taking added precautions to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Currently, many of our non-emergency services are limited as mandated by the governors of Indiana and Illinois. This may include non-emergent imaging services including lung scan, mammography and colonoscopy. **However, if you have concerns, you should contact your physician.**

ARE CLASSES, SUPPORT GROUPS AND EVENTS STILL BEING HELD?

All classes, support groups and events have been cancelled or postponed until further notice. However, cancer supportive services and survivorship programs may be offered virtually. Please contact your local Cancer Center to learn more.

