

Coronavirus (COVID-19) is a new strain of coronavirus first identified in Wuhan City, China in December 2019.

How is it spread?

Similar viruses to coronavirus spread by cough droplets or sneeze droplets. These droplets fall on people in the vicinity and can be directly inhaled or picked up on the hands and transferred when someone touches their face.

What are the symptoms?

The symptoms of this new coronavirus (COVID-19) include cough, fever, shortness of breath, or flu-like symptoms. The current evidence is that most cases appear to be mild.

Is there a treatment available?

There is currently no vaccine to prevent COVID-19 acute respiratory disease. The best way to prevent infection is to avoid being exposed to the virus. Anti-viral medications have not yet been shown to be effective against coronavirus.

How might coronavirus affect my child who is undergoing cancer treatment?

Data currently seem to show that the infection is milder in children than in adults. However, children and young people undergoing cancer treatment have a weakened immune system which will make it harder for the body to fight off infections such as COVID-19. It is important for children with cancer and their families to follow steps to protect themselves where possible.

How do I keep myself up to date about COVID-19?

Keep checking CHANCE Association website for regular updates or ask your doctor.

What if I have some more questions?

Please speak to your child's consultant or any member of the team in your treating center.

Feel free to call :



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Healing with Compassion

COVID-19 GUIDANCE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WITH CANCER UNDERGOING TREATMENT



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What precautions should we take?

Children and young people undergoing treatment and their families will already be familiar with the following infection precautions recommended by their doctors.



Wash your hands often – with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitiser that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available. This is particularly important after taking public transport such as taxis, buses, etc...



Try to help your child avoid touching their eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands where possible



Avoid close contact with people who are known to be unwell



Try and cover your child's cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in a bin.



Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces in the home and work environment

Should we be wearing face masks to protect ourselves from infection?

Face masks play a very important role in clinical settings, such as hospitals but there is very little evidence of widespread benefit from their use outside of these clinical settings. Face masks must be worn correctly, changed frequently, removed properly and disposed of safely in order to be effective.

What should I do if my child develops a fever or any other symptoms?

You should follow the normal guidance for attending the hospital if your child develops a fever. Your child will be assessed and treated as per local policy.

If you are concerned that your child has symptoms of COVID-19 or has a known COVID-19 contact, it is essential that you inform the treating hospital before your arrival so necessary arrangements can be made.

Will the supply of my child's medications be affected by COVID-19?

CHANCE Association along with the pharmacy at the hospital will try to ensure a secure supply of necessary drugs. Currently there are no shortages linked to coronavirus and no drug manufacturers have said they expect problems with supply due to coronavirus, but please follow up with the doctors regarding specific medications as some drugs have been out of stock in Lebanon before the Corona pandemic.

What about visiting my child in the hospital?

As is usual practice, any visitors who are unwell or who have any symptoms should not visit your child in hospital. All visitors should be reminded to wash their hands frequently with soap and water or use hand sanitizer. Restrictions on the number of visitors aside from parents may be imposed by your treating hospital.

Should we cancel my child's treatment or follow-up appointments at the hospital?

If your child has a scheduled appointment for treatment, unless they are unwell, they should attend. In the event of any disruption to the service provided, clinicians will always make decisions to prioritize treatment for those

most in need and in consultation with patients. The chief focus will be to provide essential services, helping those most at risk to access the right treatment.

Some centers may choose to offer telephone consultations for those patients who do not necessarily need to travel to the hospital for treatment.

What if there are other patients with suspected coronavirus in our hospital? Will they pose a risk to my child?

All testing of suspected coronavirus cases is carried out in line with strict regulations in each hospital. All suspected cases are kept in isolation, away from public areas of the hospital and returned home also in isolation. Any equipment that comes into contact with suspected cases is thoroughly cleaned as appropriate. Patients and their parents can be reassured that their safety is a top priority and are encouraged to attend all appointments as usual.

Can my child go to school?

Current advice is that children undergoing cancer treatment can go to school if they are well unless your child's school has specific advice on COVID-19. This may change with evolving information. We will follow the ministry of education recommendations for school attendance.

Can my child go to the cinema or football matches?

COVID-19 spreads through close sustained contact with someone who has the virus (for instance being within 2 meters of someone for longer than 15 minutes). If there is sustained transmission of the virus in certain areas, the Ministry of Public Health might advise that people temporarily limit socialising in public places such as entertainment or sports events.

