

How Getting COVID-19 Could Affect Your Radiation Treatment

What will happen if I test positive?

Continuing to provide you with quality care is our primary concern in the Department of Radiation Oncology. If you test positive for COVID-19 immediately before or during your radiation treatment course, we:

- May change your treatment schedule or temporarily stop your treatments for your own health and safety. Depending on your condition, radiation therapy in combination with COVID-19 illness can be harmful.
- Will take special precautions to protect the health of other patients undergoing treatment and the staff who administer treatment.

What if I have close contact with someone who has COVID-19?

If you have close contact with someone with COVID-19 we will do the same thing while arranging for you to be tested and waiting for the results. However, a break in your radiation therapy may reduce the effectiveness of radiation cancer treatment.

How can I protect myself?

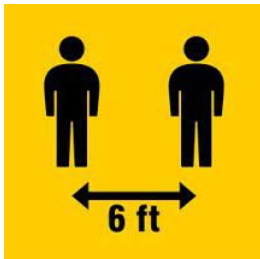
The best ways to minimize your chance of testing positive for COVID-19 during treatment are:



1. **Get vaccinated** (including a booster if it has been more than 6 months since your second vaccine)



2. Wear a **mask** that covers your nose and mouth while indoors, unless you are at home. Whenever possible, use medical grade masks, including ASTM-1, N95s or KN95s masks.



3. Practice social distancing

We urge you, and any family members or friends that you interact with immediately before and during the course of your treatments, to follow the same recommendations above. These steps will lower your risk of testing positive for COVID-19 during treatment.

We appreciate your concern for your own treatment, your respect for other patients and healthcare workers, and the effect that the pandemic has had on the delivery of cancer care. Please direct any specific questions to your treating doctor.

Where can I learn more?

The following websites provide excellent instructions on COVID-19:

- CDC Coronavirus website at: <http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus>
- State of Michigan Coronavirus website at: <http://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus>
- Michigan Medicine Patient Education Page at:

- <http://careguides.med.umich.edu/coronavirus>
- Michigan Medicine Coronavirus Updates page at:
- <https://www.uofmhealth.org/covid-19-update>

Disclaimer: This document contains information and/or instructional materials developed by University of Michigan Health for the typical patient with your condition. It may include links to online content that was not created by U-M Health and for which U-M Health does not assume responsibility. It does not replace medical advice from your health care provider because your experience may differ from that of the typical patient. Talk to your health care provider if you have any questions about this document, your condition or your treatment plan

Author: Deanna Carr-West B.S.R.T(T)

Reviewer: James Hayman MD, MBA

Edited by: Karelyn Munro, BA

Patient Education by [University of Michigan Health](#) is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 International Public License](#). Last Revised 01/2022