

Keeping you safe during the COVID-19 pandemic

This handout offers information on what your healthcare team is doing to keep you and other patients safe during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Testing for COVID-19

You may be tested for COVID-19 before starting a cancer treatment. This helps your healthcare team safely give you the care and treatment you need. Your healthcare team will tell you if this applies to you.

You may also be tested for COVID-19 if you develop a symptom(s) during your cancer treatment. If you were receiving care and treatment at another hospital, you may be tested before your treatment continues at the Durham Regional Cancer Centre.

Visitor restrictions

For your safety, Lakeridge Health and the Durham Regional Cancer Centre is restricting visitors in the hospital. This includes your family members and friends. Talk to a member of your healthcare team if you have questions or concerns about this.

Your appointments

If you feel unwell before an appointment, it is important to call your primary nurse before you come to the cancer centre.

You will come to the cancer centre for your pre-treatment and treatment appointments. You will be asked COVID-19 screening questions when you enter the hospital or cancer centre. It is important you answer these screening questions truthfully. This allows your healthcare team to safely plan for the next steps in your care.

After you answer the screening questions you will be asked to put on a mask. Your healthcare team as well as other hospital staff are wearing masks. Our waiting room areas and clinic spaces have been arranged in a way that allows you to stay 2 metres (6 feet) away from other patients.

If you arrive at the cancer centre with symptoms that may be from COVID-19, a member of the healthcare team will assess you. They will wear personal protective equipment like gloves, a gown and mask. After assessing you, they will contact your doctor.

Your healthcare team will plan telephone appointments for your follow-up visits. This reduces the number of people in the cancer centre at any one time. This will only be planned if it is the right option for you.

Having bloodwork at a community lab

You may be asked to have your bloodwork done at a community lab. This reduces the number of times we ask you to come to the cancer centre. This also reduces the number of people in the cancer centre at any one time. This helps keep you and others safe. Community labs have changed their practices in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. They may require you to make an appointment. This allows them to reduce the number of people in the lab at any one time.

Talk to a member of your healthcare team if you have questions or concerns about any information in this handout.

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