



FACTS FOR CANCER PATIENTS: COVID-19, CANCER AND SMOKING

COVID-19 IN RELATION TO CANCER PATIENTS

- » Cancer patients may be at a higher risk of severe outcomes associated with COVID-19 as they often have weakened immune systems, which puts them at risk of fighting off viruses
- » Patients who smoke while receiving cancer treatment often have poorer health and treatment outcomes



COVID-19 IN RELATION TO PEOPLE WHO SMOKE



- » May have an increased risk of more severe outcomes associated with COVID-19
- » The World Health Organization suggests that the act of smoking may accelerate the transmission of COVID-19 due to increased contact between hand and mouth as well as the potential sharing of cigarettes, mouth pieces or other smoking products
- » May be more vulnerable to certain infections because smoking has a negative impact on the immune system
- » A recent systematic review on COVID-19 and smoking found that smokers are more likely to have severe symptoms of COVID-19, be admitted to an ICU, need mechanical ventilation or die compared to non-smokers. (See summary of evidence below for more information)

COVID-19 IN RELATION TO CANCER PATIENTS WHO SMOKE

- » Given that both smokers and cancer patients are likely to be at a higher risk for harmful outcomes of COVID-19, cancer patients who smoke are particularly vulnerable



**Smoking cessation efforts
for cancer patients is an
increased priority at this time**



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- » Summary of Evidence for Smoking, COVID and cancer patients: www.bccancer.bc.ca/health-professionals-site/Documents/COVID-19%20smoking%20and%20cancer.pdf
- » BC Cancer Smoking Cessation program - Patients and Family: www.bccancer.bc.ca/our-services/services/smoking-cessation-program
- » Provincial Quit Line – QuitNow: www.quitnow.ca